CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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IBC WORLD NEWS
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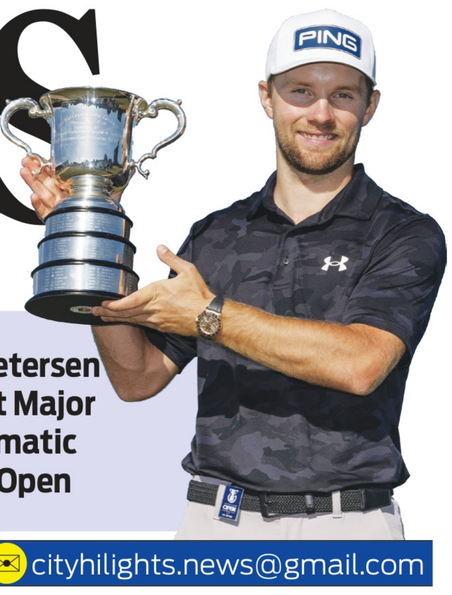
India Will Buy Fuel Where Profitable: Russia P8

Government Strategy Drives Stronger Economic Growth P9

P12 Neergaard-Petersen Clinches First Major Title at Dramatic Australian Open



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PM targets Jawaharlal Nehru during Vande Mataram debate

PM Modi in Lok Sabha blamed Congress and Nehru for restricting Vande Mataram, calling it appeasement-driven

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of fragmenting the national song Vande Mataram under the pretext of maintaining social harmony, alleging that the party continues to follow a politics of appeasement. Addressing the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the song's 150th anniversary, Modi specifically criticised former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for agreeing that the song could antagonise Muslims.

Modi cited a letter from Nehru to Subhash Chandra Bose, written after a protest by Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Lucknow, in which Nehru expressed concern that the background of Vande Mataram might provoke anger among Muslim communities. The Prime Minister claimed that the Congress later convened a session in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Bengal to review the song's use, but compromised on October 26 by adopting only a portion of it. Modi said this division of the song was a result of appeasement politics, asserting that such concessions ultimately contributed to the Partition of India.

He also referenced the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975, noting that during Vande Mataram's centenary, patriotic citizens were jailed and the Constitution was undermined. Modi criticised the 1937 decision to adopt only the first two stanzas of the song in national gatherings, claiming that it planted seeds of division that endured for decades.

OPPOSITION'S REMARK

Priyanka questions need for debate on Vande Mataram

Priyanka Gandhi questioned why Parliament was debating Vande Mataram 79 years after independence instead of addressing pressing national issues. Calling the discussion politically motivated ahead of the Bengal elections, she accused the government of diverting attention and attacking freedom fighters like Nehru. She said the national song needs no debate and criticised PM Modi, alleging declining confidence and weakening policies.

Congress terms Modi "Master Distorian"

The Congress on Monday criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him the "Master Distorian" after he accused the party of breaking the national song Vande Mataram and demanded an apology for allegedly insulting India's founding fathers, including Rabindranath Tagore. AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Modi's remarks in Parliament disrespected Tagore and Nehru, who was accused of pursuing appeasement politics.

Winter Session of K'taka legislature begins in Belagavi

BELAGAVI

The winter session of the Karnataka Legislature began on December 8 with the Assembly paying tributes to six persons who died recently, including environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka, Kannada novelist S.L. Bhyrappa and former Minister H.Y. Meti.

The session commenced amid an undercurrent of a power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar (DKS). Despite efforts to display unity—including mutual breakfast meetings on November 29 and December 2—the session is expected to expose lingering rifts within the Congress. The Opposition, led by BJP-JD(S), plans to leverage these internal divisions while raising key issues such as farmers' distress and teacher protests over contract appointments, especially in North Karnataka, a region heavily dependent on agriculture.

BJP Legislative Council Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy stated that the party would press the Congress on the administration's neglect of sugarcane and maize farmers, as well as delays in addressing unemployment and irrigation concerns. BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra also indicated the party may move a no-confidence motion despite lacking sufficient numbers in the Assembly.

BJP to lay siege to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha

Belagavi gears up for a massive protest today, as the BJP plans to "lay siege" to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. The demonstration, involving 10,000–20,000 farmers and party workers, aims to spotlight the Congress government's alleged inaction on farmers' issues. Leaders call it one of the largest recent farmer-led movements, demanding accountability and justice for the agrarian crisis.

No Kannada schools will be closed: Bangarappa

Karnataka Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa has reaffirmed that no Kannada medium school will be closed, emphasizing, "Kannada is in our blood." The government plans to upgrade 900 schools into Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) in 2025-26, ensuring proper infrastructure and quality education. Even villages with a single student will retain schools, with teachers appointed accordingly. The initiative aims to provide equitable, high-standard education across the state, with new KPS schools gradually introduced in all gram panchayats.

IndiGo refunds ₹569.65 cr, 4.5K bags returned to passengers

"Today IndiGo plans to operate 1,802 flights to 137 out of 138 destinations, with 500 cancellations. (Also) 4,500 bags were delivered to customers out of the total 9,000 bags. (the airline) targets to deliver balance bags in the next 36 hours."

—Civil Aviation Ministry

NEW DELHI

IndiGo has refunded ₹569.65 crore after cancelling nearly 5.87 lakh PNRs between December 1 and 7, the Civil Aviation Ministry said on Monday. Since each PNR may include multiple travellers, the total number of affected passengers is likely far higher.

The ministry also confirmed that the airline has so far delivered 4,500 of the 9,000 pieces of misplaced baggage, with plans to return the remaining bags within the next 36 hours. The disruptions have been widespread. Between November 21 and December 7, a total of 9,55,591 PNRs were cancelled, with refunds amounting to ₹827 crore. This indicates that approximately 3.68 lakh PNRs were cancelled between November 21 and 30 alone, during which IndiGo returned ₹2.57 crore to customers.

It also said that IndiGo plans to operate 1,802 of its 2,300 daily flights to 137 of its 138 destinations, with nearly 500 cancellations for the day.

HDK hits back at CM, questions his contribution to Mandya

NEW DELHI

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy on Monday launched a sharp counterattack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for questioning his contributions to Mandya district. Addressing reporters at his New Delhi residence, Kumaraswamy challenged the Chief Minister to first outline his own achievements before seeking answers from others. He criticised Siddaramaiah's previous term, pointing out that more than 200 farmers in Mandya died by suicide between 2013 and 2018. In contrast, he highlighted that his government had waived ₹900 crore in loans to support distressed farmers in the district.

Kumaraswamy accused the state government of neglecting farmers facing repeated climate disasters. He said the administration failed to respond to the crash in tur dal prices in Kalyana Karnataka and had not opened procurement centres on time. "After months of delay, you suddenly seek a central inspection team. What report do you expect now?" he asked.

HDK defends call to teach Bhagavad Gita

Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy defended his proposal to introduce the Bhagavad Gita in school curricula, questioning how teaching moral values could be branded as "Manuvadi." Addressing the media, he said the growing drug menace in Karnataka was destroying young lives, and the Gita could guide children toward discipline and ethical thinking. Criticising CM and Minister Mahadevappa for attacking him, he asked whether writing to the Union Education Minister on value-based education could be considered a crime.

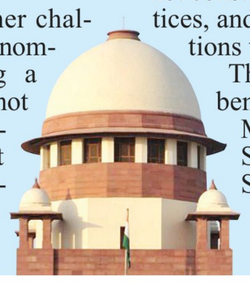
SC seeks response from Priyank Kharge over 2023 election plea

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge regarding a petition challenging his election from the Chittapur (SC) constituency in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls. The plea, filed by Ashwathram, a registered voter from Chittapur, alleged that Kharge and his agents circulated pamphlets titled "Congress Guarantees" during the campaign, offering direct monetary transfers and other targeted benefits to voters. The petitioner claimed these pamphlets were not part of the official Congress manifesto and lacked statutory printer and publisher disclosures as required under the Representation of People Act (RPA), effectively amounting to inducements or bribery under Section 123(1) RPA.

The plea further challenged Kharge's nomination, citing a caste certificate not issued in the prescribed format and alleged misrepresentation of educational qualifications. According to the petitioner, these defects collectively undermined the election, rendering it void under Sections 100(1)(b) and 100(1)(d) of the RPA. The Karnataka High Court had earlier dismissed the petition, holding that the pamphlets did not constitute corrupt practices, and the other allegations were immaterial.

The Supreme Court bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma has directed Kharge to respond.



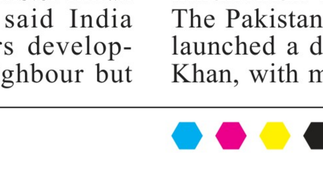
Points to Ponder

- Petition alleges "Congress Guarantees" pamphlets promised monetary benefits to voters.
- Nomination challenged due to defective caste certificate, misrepresented educational qualifications.
- Petitioner argues High Court erred; accountability ensures free and fair elections.

QUICK READ

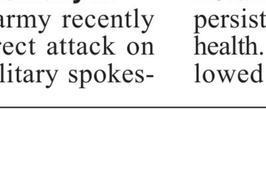
7.2 earth quake strikes off northern Japan, triggers tsunami alert

TOKYO: A powerful 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck off northern Japan on Monday, triggering a tsunami of up to 40 centimeters in coastal communities in the region, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said. The agency said the magnitude quake struck just east of Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main Honshu island, and just south of Hokkaido island. It said a tsunami of 40 centimeters struck the Hokkaido prefecture town of Urakawa and the Aomori prefecture port of Mutsu Ogawara. Several people were injured at a hotel in the Aomori town of Hachinohe, public broadcaster NHK reported.



World's second-largest Khadi national flag to be unfurled in Belagavi

BELAGAVI: The world's second-largest Khadi national flag will be unfurled at 9:30 AM today on the grand steps of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The massive flag has been handcrafted by Vinod Kumar Revappa Bammanna and his family from Kamalapur, Kalaburagi, as a personal initiative, marking a historic achievement. The ceremony will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, with Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader Farid, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, other state ministers, and legislators in attendance, according to a statement from the Assembly office.



Anna Bhagya rice export allegations

BELAGAVI

During the Belagavi Legislative Council winter session on Monday, senior BJP MLC CT Ravi alleged that rice supplied under Karnataka's Anna Bhagya scheme for BPL families is being illegally exported to Dubai and Singapore, where 10 kg sells for Rs 8,000 and Rs 1,500, respectively. He claimed miscreants steal the rice before it reaches godowns, sending it to black markets in other states. BJP members demanded a Special Investigation Team (SIT). Food Minister KH Muniyappa said low rice usage in North Karnataka caused misuse, asserting the government is taking legal action and will provide Indira Kits with essential items from January 2026.

MEA ON PAKISTAN DEMOCRACY

Pakistan and democracy don't go together: MEA

NEW DELHI

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Monday made a scathing comment on the state of democracy in Pakistan, asserting that "democracy and Pakistan don't go together." His remarks came during the weekly media briefing, when asked about the political situation in Pakistan, particularly following the protests over jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Jaiswal said India closely monitors developments in its neighbour but refrained from commenting further, adding, "The less we talk the better."

The MEA spokesperson's statement follows mounting political tensions in Pakistan, where Khan, 73, has been imprisoned since 2023 on a corruption conviction and faces multiple cases.

Pakistan military calls Imran Khan 'mentally ill'

The Pakistan army recently launched a direct attack on Khan, with military spokesperson Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry describing him as "mentally ill" and a "narcissist," after Khan referred to Army chief Gen. Asim Munir as "mentally unstable" and blamed him for the "complete collapse of the Constitution and rule of law."

Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has been demanding regular access for his family and supporters, amid persistent rumours about his health. Authorities recently allowed Khan's sister, Uzma Khanum, to meet him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, while PTI supporters staged protests outside the Islamabad High Court and the jail over restrictions on visitation rights.

On Pakistan–Afghanistan border clashes

Separately, when asked about Pakistan–Afghanistan border clashes, Jaiswal expressed concern over reports of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, condemning the attacks and affirming India's strong support for Afghanistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence.

India urges caution for travel through China

India on Monday advised its nationals to exercise discretion while travelling to or transiting through China. The advisory comes over two weeks after an Arunachal Pradesh woman was detained at Shanghai airport. EAM spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India expects China to ensure that Indian travellers are not selectively targeted.

QUICK READ

Seventy four medical seats remaining: KEA

Bengaluru

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Monday announced the final results of the 3rd round of seat allocation for UG Medical and Dental courses as per the High Court order. Those who have been allotted seats should pay the fee by December 10 (by deducting the fee already paid). The seat guarantee card should be downloaded and reported to the colleges by December 11, said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of the authority. A total of 1,080 medical seats and 266 dental seats have been allotted in this round. There are 74 medical seats remaining in the management quota in this round. All the dental seats have been allotted and none are vacant, it was explained.

BJP Raitha Morcha protests for farmers demands

Bengaluru

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Raitha Morcha in Nelamangala taluk of Bengaluru Rural district staged a protest rally to press for the farmers' demands. The protesters planned to march from the Chowdeshwari temple to the taluk office in Channappa Layout in Nelamangala town. At the same time, former BJP MLA Nagaraju. Several BJP leaders and activists including Mariswamy, Mallaiah Ramakrishnappa and others participated in the protest.

Gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees stolen from house

Bengaluru

In a shocking incident, thieves broke into a house and looted gold ornaments and cash worth lakhs of rupees. The thieves looted Rs 50,000 in cash and gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees from the house of Hemalatha. The incident took place when the family had gone to the Hassanpuradamma temple and the incident came to light after returning from the temple. A case has been registered at Peenya police station.

'Cong-backed candidates won in BDCC bank elections'

The Bangalore District Central Cooperative Bank elections were held on Sunday and Congress-backed candidates won 15 out of 18 seats

BENGALURU

Congress-backed candidates have won the Bangalore District Central Cooperative Bank (BDCC Bank) elections under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, said BAMUL President DK Suresh.

Addressing a media conference at BDCC Bank in Chamarajpet, Suresh gave information about the election results. The bank elections were held on Sunday and Congress-backed candidates won 15 out of 18 seats. Congress candidates won 2 seats in Ramanagara, 1 in Channapatna, 2 in Kanakapura and 2 in Magadi in Bengaluru South district, he said.

Somashekar has joined hands with us and our candidate has won in his constituency as well. In Bengaluru North district, Congress candidate has won 2 seats in Hoskote, 1 in Devanahalli, 1 in Doddaballapur, 1 in Anekal, 1 in Bengaluru North constituency and 1 other constituency with the cooperation of HM Revanna. The remaining 2 seats in Nelamangala and Solur constituencies have been won by BJP candidates, he informed.

With the cooperation of Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar, Ministers Ramalinga Reddy, KH Muniyappa, Krishna Byregowda, and MLAs Shivanna, Sharath Bachegowda, Iqbal Hussain, Balakrishna, CP Yogeshwar, Srinivas, leaders RK Ramesh, Venkataramanappa and other leaders, Congress-supported candidates have been elected to the governing body in this election. I thank all the cooperative brothers, all the party leaders, Ministers, MLAs, and defeated candidates who cooperated in this election, he said.

The BDCC Bank with a long history, that attracts attention in the state located in the capital and has seen many ups and downs. The Bank has been well managed in the current situation. This Bank has a total coverage of 36 assembly constituencies in Bangalore North, Bangalore South and Bangalore City districts, he said.

Our Board of Directors will lead BDCC Bank in the best possible way and provide the best services and facilities to the farmers and citizens under the purview of this Bank, he assured.

Metro Pink Line: Prototype train to be unveiled on Dec 11

BENGALURU

BMRCL has announced that preparations are underway to unveil the prototype train of Metro Pink route between Kalena Agrahara-Nagwara on December 11.

BEML has prepared the trains required for the Pink Line and the prototype train was ready by the end of November. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar was supposed to unveil the prototype train last Friday. But since Namma Metro decided to inspect the works on the Blue Line at the same time, it has been decided to unveil it on December 11. After that, permission will be obtained for as many new trains as required, BMRCL said.

The Purple Metro line between Kalena Agrahara-Nagwara has an underground and an elevated line. Of these, the elevated line from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere is expected to be operational by next May. The first train will run between Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIM Bangalore, JP Nagar Phase 4, Jayadeva and Tavarekere metro stations. The entire line will be operational by December 2026, sources said.

On August 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Yellow Line of Namma Metro. This is the much-awaited Yellow Line of Namma Metro, which is 19.15 km long, from RV Road to Bommasandra. Passenger services began on August 11. This has expanded the city's metro network to 96.1 km.

The state government has given a deadline to the companies that have been awarded the contract to complete the metro line from KR Pura to Silk Board by December 2026, the line from KR Pura to Hebbal by December 2027, and the line from Hebbal to the International Airport by June 2027.

Central govt should provide answers to NK's problems: DCM

BENGALURU

The central government has to answer the problems of North Karnataka (NK). Regarding the problems of sugarcane growers and maize, I and CM Siddaramaiah have taken a decision that will be costly for the state government, said Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Responding to a question about whether North Karnataka's problems will be solved in the Belagavi session with the media near Sadashivanagara residence, he said that the central government has not spoken out about the problems of sugarcane growers and maize. BJP MPs have not raised their voices on any of the state's problems. Bommai is saying that the state government should buy. If so, what is the role of the central government. Who decides this. The central government fixes the price for everything. However, the central government has not taken any decision on these issues so far. We are here to provide relief. Isn't it the responsibility of the central government in this. Why has Bommai not raised his voice on this issue in Parliament so far. Has he not met the Prime Minister and the Union Agriculture Minister and discussed it, he questioned.

Meanwhile, talking about the irrigation problem and non-implementation of the project, he said that no one in the history of the department has done as many projects for irrigation projects as were done during my tenure. He said that he will not speak in front of the media on this issue, let the opposition parties raise this issue in the session, and I will reply there.

When asked about Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife's statement that he should be given Rs 500 crore to become a Minister in the Congress, he said, let's hospitalize the person who said this. Let's hospitalize him in a good mental hospital.

Asked if he would be leaving for Delhi by December 20, he said, I am holding a global conference in Hyderabad. Our neighboring state has invited us, and I and some officials are going there. We will discuss the rest later, he said.

3 members of the same family found dead

BENGALURU

A horrific incident in which three members of the same family were found dead took place on the 1st Main Road in Tavarekere. Madamma (68), her daughter Sudha (38) and Sudha's 14-year-old son were found dead. Upon learning of the incident, Bangalore South East Division DCP Sara Fatima, Suddguntepalya police station police, and SOCO team personnel visited the scene and conducted an investigation. The family, originally from Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu, had been living in Thavarekere for one and a half years. The mother, her daughter Sudha and her grandson lived with the mother. Initially, the mother and daughter ran a biryani hotel, and later they did housework along with the milk business.

Knowledge of calendar helps proper planning: R Shivamadaiah

BENGALURU

Former Zilla Panchayat member R Shivamadaiah said that time, week and dates are important for everyone in their daily lives.

Speaking after releasing the 2026 New Year Calendar at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Chikkegowdan Palya of Yeshwantpur assembly constituency, he said that time, week and date are important for carrying out work and tasks in daily life.

According to Hindu tradition, the calendar is a hand mirror by introducing people to the time, festivals and which day each festival falls.

IndiGo flight schedule changes, air ambulance fares also increase

BENGALURU

Lakhs of passengers have been suffering for the past five or six days due to disruptions in IndiGo flights. Passengers who were supposed to travel from Bengaluru to many states and countries are struggling to get flights. This has also affected patients. Patients who are going for treatment in other states and countries are also facing problems.

Patients are airlifted in private planes by I-Cat Air Ambulance. Before being admitted to the hospital, a hospital bed is booked from Bengaluru. They travel to and from Bengaluru by different airlines. After that, the patient is airlifted directly to the hospital. Due to the change in IndiGo flights, the price of air tickets has increased. Therefore, the price of air ambulances has inevitably increased.

IndiGo flight disruptions leave 5-year-old traveling alone

BENGALURU

Passengers across the country have been left in a state of shock due to problems with Indigo flights for the past 5-6 days. Due to the Indigo problem, a 5-year-old girl, Thennal Ashwin, has to travel alone from Baramulla, Kashmir to Bengaluru.

Then Nal was supposed to come to her grandmother's house from Baramulla to Bengaluru with her uncle Adarsh. But on December 5, the ticket booking was canceled. On December 6, the ticket was also canceled, so Thennal came to Bengaluru with a caretaker. The child was sent to Bengaluru due to the extreme cold in Baramulla. The two-way flight ticket rate booked by her father-in-law to bring her back, the three tickets booked again, and the money paid to the caretaker, totaled Rs 50,000.

KHBF URGES GOVERNMENT TO NOTIFY NEW APARTMENT ACT

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Home Buyers Forum (KHBF), an umbrella body representing apartment purchasers across the state, has urged the govt to immediately release the long-pending apartment Act, citing mounting legal complications and non-compliance with key provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

KHBF has been campaigning for effective implementation of RERA, particularly Section 17, which mandates that common areas in a housing project must be transferred by the promoter to the Association of Allottees (AoA). However, there has not been much forward movement on this front as, in many projects, the AoA is not registered as a 'body corporate', a statutory prerequisite for transferring common areas.

In its statement, the forum warned that continued failure to operationalise this requirement could have severe implications, especially during redevelopment or in the event of structural failures which could result in damage to or collapse of buildings. Without a registered association, promoters cannot legally transfer land or common areas, leaving thousands of homebuyers without full ownership rights.

KHBF members said they have pursued remedies across several institutions such as the RERA authority, RERA appellate tribunal, Karnataka High Court, Human Rights Commission, and the Lokayukta in an effort to draw the government's attention to the issue. In fact, hopes soared in January this year when the High Court, hearing a writ petition, directed the state to submit its response on the proposed apartment Act.

The Court also noted that the govt had earlier given a written commitment to frame and notify legislation. But almost a year after the HC directive, the government has neither filed its response nor released the Act, despite assurances given during the election campaign, KHBF Convener Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said, terming the delay, a denial of statutory rights to homebuyers". Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has also demanded that the govt update the archaic Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972 to end the administrative chaos and litigation caused by the lack of clear management and ownership rights.

MLA unveils ₹25 cr infrastructure upgrade

BENGALURU

MLA ST Somashekhar said that efforts are being made to provide world-class infrastructure by installing underground cables in the constituency to avoid power fluctuations and to provide continuous power supply.

Speaking after launching the work of installing 220/66 KV EHV underground cables in Chikkegowdanpalya, Banashankari 6th phase, KPTCL, he said that work worth Rs 25 crore has already been started in the layouts of Banashankari 6th phase.

The Deputy Chief Minister will sign off on the asphalting of all the roads in the layouts of Banashankari 6th phase at a cost of Rs 50 crore. He said that necessary infrastructure including drainage will be provided at a cost of Rs 45 crore in the coming days. He said that the work of installing LED lights is in full swing in Kempegowda Layout, Visvesvaraya Layout and Banashankari Layout.

PROTECT SAFETY OF SPECTATORS

Opposition erupts against IPL permission for Chinnaswamy Stadium

BENGALURU

Opposition has erupted after Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hinted at allowing cricket matches to be held at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Senior advocate NP Amritesh has appealed to the officials of all the concerned departments that permission should not be given to host any cricket matches, including the IPL, at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

He has submitted a detailed letter to the Chief Secretary of the state government, Home Department, Police Department, Fire and Emergency Services Department, Public Works Department, and Karnataka State Cricket Association, mentioning several points.

A suo motu inquiry is pending in the High Court into the stampede that occurred during the celebrations of the Royal Challengers Bangalore team. Expert reports have said that the stadium is unsafe for public gatherings. DCM D.K. Shivakumar has made a statement on the spot about granting permission to hold IPL matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium when RCB fans put pressure on him. This is a direct political decision taken without consulting the concerned departments. Permission should not be given keeping in mind the loss of lives that has already occurred, ignoring expert reports.

The inquiry by Justice John Michael de Cunha's commission found the stadium unsuitable and unsafe for mass gatherings. Safer alternative stadiums are available in the outskirts of Bengaluru or other cities, where it is better to host matches. Modern cricket is broadcast-based and can be broadcast live without crowds, Amritesh explained in the letter.

DCM DK Shivakumar, who spoke to the media after voting in the Karnataka State Cricket Association elections held on Sunday, had spoken about legally allowing international matches to be held again at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Keeping in mind the capacity to handle the crowd, we will use the Chinnaswamy Stadium appropriately within the legal framework and will also build another big stadium as an alternative. We will be careful not to let tragedies like stampede happen in the future. Be it IPL or World Cup matches, we will not let any opportunities slip away from here. We will organize it here. This is the honor of the state of Karnataka and Bengaluru. We will save it, the DCM had said.

QUICK READ

FINNOVET National Summit Set For Hubballi

Hubballi

The IBMR Educational Institute will host the FINNOVET National Summit-2025, a two-day event aimed at fostering innovation and student success. Celebrating 26 years of quality education, IBMR has created this national platform to inspire a "Viksit Bharat." The summit will be held on February 13 at the IBMR College Auditorium and continue on February 14 at Denison's Hotel in Hubballi. Students, educators, and industry leaders from across India are expected to participate in discussions, workshops, and networking sessions. Organizers said the event will provide insights into emerging trends, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

Bus Driver Saves Woman during Cardiac Emergency

Dharwad

A quick-thinking bus driver and conductor in Dharwad helped save a woman's life after she suffered a cardiac arrest. The woman collapsed near a local dental college, and the Bendre bus driver, Shankar Patil, along with conductor Manju, immediately drove her to the Dharwad District Hospital. Doctors admitted her for treatment, and she is now reported to be out of danger. The humane actions of the driver and conductor have been widely appreciated across the community. Officials and citizens praised their swift response, highlighting how ordinary acts of kindness and courage can make a life-saving difference in emergencies.

Koppal Reviews Progress on SC, ST Projects

Koppal

The Koppal Deputy Commissioner chaired the October-2025 Progress Review meeting on Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) projects under the Karnataka SC/ST Sub-Plan Act, 2013. Held at the District Commissioner's Office Hall, the meeting focused on monitoring the implementation of development programs for SC and ST communities. Departmental officers were instructed to attend with complete progress reports up to the end of October 2025. The Member Secretary of the District Level Monitoring Committee and Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department emphasized timely execution and accountability.

Minister Sudhakar Explains Why KEA Exam Fees Are Higher

Dr. Sudhakar explained KEA's higher fees cover exam costs, reforms, staff salaries, and advanced exam technologies like facial recognition

BELAGAVI

Karnataka's Higher Education Minister, Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, responded to concerns raised by Legislative Council member Nirani Hanumanth Rudrappa about the exam fees for the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) being higher than those for the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

In a statement made on December 8, Dr. Sudhakar acknowledged that the KEA exam fee, set at Rs 750, is significantly higher than the KPSC exam fee, which is

only Rs 300. Rudrappa had pointed out that this higher fee burdens poorer and rural candidates, who may find it difficult to afford.

Dr. Sudhakar explained that the fee structure for KEA exams is designed to cover the costs of conducting the exams, including reforms and staff salaries. He clarified that while the KPSC receives a government subsidy for its exams, KEA does not, which makes it necessary to charge a higher fee. He also highlighted that the fees help support modern exam practices, including facial recognition software, CCTV monitoring at exam centers, and fast-tracking of OMR answer sheet scanning.

The Minister emphasized that despite rising costs, KEA has not increased its exam fees since 2022 in order to prevent further financial strain on candidates. Furthermore, if a candidate applies for multiple posts within the same syllabus, they are only charged Rs 100 for each additional post, aiming to reduce the financial burden.

Dr. Sudhakar also addressed the possibility of aligning KEA's fee structure with that of the KPSC or Central Public Service Commission, explaining that since the state government does not provide funding for KEA exams, this approach would not be feasible.

Minister Khandre Blames Epidemic for Blackbuck Deaths

BELAGAVI

The Minister assured no negligence from zoo authorities, confirming 31 blackbucks died, while seven survivors are isolated and monitored to prevent disease spread.

Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre revealed that the recent deaths of 30 blackbucks at the Kittur Rani Channamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi were caused by an epidemic disease, specifically hemorrhagic septicaemia.

Khandre was responding to a query from MLC Talwar Sabanna in the Legislative Council regarding the sudden deaths of the animals. According to the Minister, a team of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologists from Hebbal, Bengaluru, visited the zoo to examine the deceased blackbucks. The team sent blood samples and organs to a laboratory for testing, which confirmed that the disease was responsible for the fatalities.

The Minister assured that there had been no negligence on the part of zoo authorities in managing the situation. He also noted that while 31 out of the 38 blackbucks at the zoo died, the remaining seven animals have been carefully isolated and are being closely monitored to prevent the spread of the disease.

To ensure the safety of other animals, precautionary measures have been implemented at the zoo. Furthermore, instructions have been issued to the Executive Directors of all zoos under the Karnataka Zoo Authority to take similar precautions to prevent the epidemic from affecting other wildlife in their care.

Khandre expressed confidence that these steps would help control the spread of hemorrhagic septicaemia and protect the remaining animals from further harm.

The Labour Department is offering on-the-job training for graduates, providing stipends, certificates, and enhancing employability

Hubballi Labour Reforms Bring New Hope

HUBBALLI

Hubballi's working class is witnessing a wave of reforms under Labour Minister Santosh Lad, whose two-and-a-half-year tenure has focused on improving wages, protections, and training opportunities for workers.

The state government recently issued a notification revising minimum wages, which will benefit lakhs of workers across Karnataka. "This is a major step by the Labour Department to ensure fair pay for both organized and unorganized workers," said Santosh Lad. Wages are now calculated based on the type of work, skill level, daily and monthly work hours, and take into account factors such as inflation, cost of living, and employment availability. Trade unions were consulted during the process to ensure inclusivity.

Another milestone is the Karnataka Compulsory Gratuity Act, introduced under Lad's guidance. The Act safeguards workers' allowances in cases of company closures, bankruptcy, or other disruptions. It has also reduced disputes before regulatory authorities by securing grant funds for employees, offering stability and peace of mind.

Outsourced workers, who often faced harassment and uncertainty, have also received attention. Following the successful Bidar model, committees are now being formed in every district to support outsourced workers, with plans to expand the initiative to Mysuru, Dharwad, and Tumakuru districts.

The Labour Department is also addressing the skill gap among educated youth. On-the-job training programs for SSLC, PUC, ITI, Diploma, and Engineering graduates will last 24–36 months, with trainees receiving stipends based on minimum wages. Upon completion, participants will receive experience certificates, boosting employability and career prospects.

"These reforms are about more than policy—they represent hope and security for the working class," said Lad. With minimum wage revisions, strengthened gratuity protections, support for outsourced workers, and skill development initiatives, Karnataka is setting new standards for labour welfare.

Santosh Lad's initiatives reflect a commitment to empowering workers, ensuring fair pay, and equipping youth with practical skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving economy.

Apply Now for Women's Entrepreneurship Training Program

KOPPAL

The Karnataka Entrepreneurship Development Centre (CIDAC), Koppal, is inviting applications from women and youth interested in starting their own businesses. Sponsored by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, and Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, Bengaluru, the centre is offering a ten-day entrepreneurship development training program. The training will guide participants on how to start and manage their own business. Topics include preparing project reports, understanding government self-employment schemes, applying for bank loans, market survey techniques, business management methods, advertising and marketing, registration processes, and steps to set up a business. Trainees will also have opportunities to interact with successful entrepreneurs and learn from their experiences.

Pro-Kannada Protest Halts Maharashtra Bus Services

BELAGAVI

The disturbance extended to Kolhapur, where buses from Karnataka to Maharashtra were temporarily suspended for three hours as authorities reviewed the situation.

Tensions flared between pro-Kannada activists and MES supporters in Belagavi, leading to a temporary suspension of bus services to Maharashtra. Activists from the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike tried to approach the city's vaccine depot near Sambhaji Circle to protest against the MES Mahamelav, accusing them of promoting seditious activities on Karnataka soil.

Police intervened to stop the activists, sparking a confrontation. Deepak Gudaganatty, Wajid Hirekodi, and other pro-Kannada leaders were detained after lying on the road in protest. "Why are you stopping us? We have a program," the activists argued, while shouting slogans against the MES.

The disturbance extended to Kolhapur, where buses from Karnataka to Maharashtra were temporarily suspended for three hours as authorities reviewed the situation. Tight police security has been deployed along the Karnataka-Maharashtra borders, causing inconvenience to passengers from both states.

The incident followed a series of retaliatory actions. Shiv Sena workers in Kolhapur stopped a Karnataka transport bus and pasted stickers reading "Jai Maharashtra," expressing anger over previous restrictions on MES activities. Similarly, workers from the Shivaramegowda faction protested by stopping a Maharashtra bus in Athani town, escalating tensions further.

Meanwhile, MES leaders attempting to reach the vaccine depot were also detained near the second railway gate while demanding the inclusion of Belagavi, Nippani, Bidar, Balki, and Karwar in a united Maharashtra. Authorities maintained that the police acted to prevent escalation and maintain law and order.

The situation highlights growing regional tensions over border and language issues, prompting officials to monitor movements closely and ensure public safety.

Hubballi Cancels 2,200 Ineligible BPL Cards

HUBBALLI

The Dharwad district administration has cancelled 2,200 Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards after identifying beneficiaries who were not eligible for the scheme. The decision follows a state-level crackdown on ration card misuse, as authorities found several cardholders living a luxurious lifestyle, paying income tax, or holding significant assets.

With around 3.86 lakh ration card holders in Dharwad district, the ineligible BPL cardholders have now been reclassified under the Above Poverty Line (APL) category. The Union Food Department had issued orders to review and cancel BPL cards belonging to government employees, income taxpayers, individuals with annual income exceeding Rs 1.20 lakh, landowners with more than 7.5 acres, and businesspersons with an annual turnover of Rs 25 lakh or more.

Officials confirmed that the food department conducted a thorough verification of all beneficiaries before taking

action. "The cancellation process ensures that the benefits reach the genuinely needy and prevents misuse of government resources," a senior official said.

The move has drawn attention to the widespread misuse of BPL cards and is expected to set a precedent for stricter monitoring of ration card schemes across the state. Authorities also hinted that further reforms and tighter measures might be introduced to strengthen the system in the coming months.

Residents who were wrongly holding BPL cards have been advised to cooperate with the authorities to update their status under the correct category. The government emphasized that the main goal is to ensure transparency and fairness in distributing food and welfare benefits.

Cesarean Deliveries Rise in Educated Areas

BELAGAVI

Belagavi is witnessing growing concerns over the rise in cesarean deliveries, especially in districts with higher literacy rates, Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao said during the Legislative Council's winter session on Monday.

Minister Gundurao noted that increased awareness, better nutrition, and concerns about natural childbirth are prompting families to choose cesarean deliveries for their pregnant women. "Work is underway to create awareness among expectant mothers about the benefits of natural childbirth for both mental and physical health," he said.

Opposition member Govindaraju highlighted that cesarean delivery rates are increasing in areas such as Kolar and Kalyana Karnataka. He raised concerns about private hospitals' influence and the potential role of malnutrition in driving these trends, urging the government to take appropriate action. Responding, the Health Minister said that it cannot be generalized that private hospitals are performing cesareans for profit, but acknowledged that families in more educated districts tend to prefer surgical deliveries. Social awareness campaigns will encourage natural childbirth wherever possible.

The Health Department's analysis in Tumkur district found that 75 to 80 percent of deliveries were cesarean, largely due to convenience and cost differences. The Minister added that while government doctors may have recommended private hospitals in rare cases, any unnecessary or illegal practices will be investigated and addressed. Earlier in the session, the Legislative Council offered condolences to several departed dignitaries, including former members K. Narahari and R.V. Devaraj, former minister and MLA H.Y. Meti, and noted personalities from literature, journalism, music, and cinema.

Party's Failure Due to One Person: Rajanna

BELAGAVI

Former Minister K. N. Rajanna has once again sparked controversy within the Congress party, claiming that the failure to secure power in the past was due to the actions of a single individual, though he stopped short of directly naming D.K. Shivakumar.

Speaking to the media at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, Rajanna commented on the ongoing speculation about a potential change in the Chief Minister's position. "Some in Congress are ready to take on the role of CM, but let's not forget that the party did not come to power because of one person," he said. The statement seemed to be a subtle reference to D.K. Shivakumar, a prominent Congress leader whose influence has often been a point of contention.

Rajanna, however, emphasized that politics is constantly evolving, and changes are inevitable in any party. "There is a cry for change in the BJP, and similarly, there will be shifts within our party as well," he said. He went on to defend Congress's hard work in securing power, pointing out that G.Parameshwar, who is often touted as a key figure, did not single-handedly bring the party to power.

SOCIAL WELFARE LEGACY

Monasteries Inspire Government with Social Service

BELAGAVI

Belagavi witnessed a celebration of faith and service as Minister of Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar praised the social contributions of Karnataka's monasteries during the 136th Jayanti Mahotsav of Dr. Shivabasava Mahaswamy at Naganur Rudrakshi Math in Shivabasava Nagar.

Minister Hebbalkar highlighted that the Mathadeeshas and their institutions have set an example by offering three types of devotions—Akshara Dasoha (education), Anna Dasoha (food), and Arogya Dasoha (health)—which have inspired government programs. "From my childhood, I have been blessed by the guidance of the Mathadeeshas. Their work in social welfare mirrors government efforts, and their dedication motivates us to replicate similar services," she said.

The Minister also emphasized the role of the monasteries in Karnataka's history, including contributions to the unification of the state and the freedom struggle. She expressed pride in being part of a society guided by spiritual values while maintaining secular principles. "We should adopt the teachings of spiritual gurus and contribute positively to society," she added.

Highlighting social initiatives, Hebbalkar mentioned that monasteries actively encourage women's participation and skill development, including efforts like waste-to-juice projects. She noted that such initiatives reflect equality and ensure no discrimination between men and women.

The event was attended by prominent spiritual leaders including Pujyashri Maniranjana Dr. Tonta's Siddarama Mahaswamy of Sri Jagadguru Tontadarya Sansthan Math in Gadag, Dr. Mallikarjuna Mahaswamy of Muruga Math in Dharwad, Channabasava Deshikendra Mahaswamy of Salilakhya Viraktamath in Bettadapur, and Allama Prabhu Mahaswamy, along with Sri Gurusiddha Swamy of Karanji Math. Distinguished guests such as F.P.W. Technologies co-founder Dr. Basanagouda Patil, VTU Tribal Minister Dr. Prasad Rampure, and Sewaratna awardees Basalinganna Vannoor, Kaveri Kilari, Balappa Doddabangi, and Channappa Narasannavar also participated.

The Minister pledged continued government support for monastery-led initiatives, reaffirming the importance of faith-driven social service in strengthening community welfare across Karnataka.

QUICK READ

Maharishi Valmiki to Visit Gadag City

Gadag

Shri Maharishi Valmiki will visit Gadag city on December 9 for a preliminary meeting ahead of the Jatra Mahotsav-2026 at Rajanahalli Valmiki Gurupeeth. The district-level meeting, organized by the Gadag District Valmiki Nayak Seva Sangh, will be held at Valmiki Bhavan at 10 am in the presence of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Valmiki Prasannanandpuri Maha Swamiji. Gurus, elders, youth, women, and members of the Valmiki Nayaka Samaj from surrounding villages are invited to offer suggestions and guidance. Officials emphasized the importance of active participation to ensure the success of the historic Jatra celebration in Harihar taluk.

Rescued Dogs Ready for Adoption in Bhagyanagar

Koppal

The Bhagyanagar Town Panchayat's Animal Care Center in Koppal taluk has safely housed and vaccinated rescued dogs, making them healthy and ready for adoption. Citizens and non-governmental organizations interested in giving these dogs a new home can visit the center to meet the animals. Applicants need to submit a written request along with required documents, officials said. The initiative aims to ensure the well-being of rescued animals while promoting responsible pet ownership. The Town Panchayat encourages community participation, giving these dogs a chance to live in caring households and find loving families willing to provide lifelong care.

Taluk Members Assigned To Oversee Local Panchayats

Gadag

To strengthen the management of guarantee schemes in Gadag taluk, Taluk Chairman Ashok Mandali announced that members of the Taluk Committee of the Karnataka State Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority will take charge of various Gram Panchayats. Dayanand Pawar will oversee Nagavi and Kalasapura, while Sangu Karakalamatti will manage wards 19, 20, 22, 30, and 34. N B Desai is responsible for Soratura and Beladadi, Sangamesh Hadimani for wards 3, 4, 5, and 6, and Ramesh Honni Naykar for Harti and Yalishirunda. Officials emphasized that these assignments aim to ensure efficient implementation and better coordination at the local level.

Minister B S Suresh Assures Transparent Civic Amenity Allocation Process

Minister Suresh stated civic amenity site allocation follows Karnataka rules, with a review committee making decisions subject to authority approval

BELAGAVI

Urban Development and Town Planning Minister B S Suresh assured that the process of allocating civic amenity sites in the state is completely transparent, and there are no issues currently. He was responding to concerns raised by Member DS Arun, who had pointed out that the public seems uninterested in these sites and questioned the department's policy on extending leases.

Minister Suresh explained that the allocation of civic amenity sites follows clear guidelines laid out in the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allocation of Civic Amenities Sites) Rules, 1991, and the Karnataka Planning Authorities (Allocation of Civic Amenities Sites) Rules, 2016. According to these rules, a committee is set up to review and allocate sites based on specific criteria. All decisions are subject to approval by the relevant authority.

The lease amount for these sites is determined based on the Sub-Registrar's guideline price. Typically, these sites are leased for 30 years, and renewals are possible with government approval. Lease values may also increase by an additional 50% upon renewal, with the extended lease period also set at 30 years.

Suresh emphasized that no government grants are given to Urban Development or Town Planning Authorities. These bodies operate using their own financial resources, and offering sites below market value could result in financial losses for the authorities.

The Minister also clarified that the allocation of civic amenities for welfare organizations or educational institutions, particularly those supporting marginalized communities, is subject to discounted rates. Additionally, if more than one applicant seeks a site, a lottery system is used for fair allocation.

On the issue of demand for these sites, Suresh noted that while there is currently no significant demand, the handover process of constructed sites is still pending. He also addressed DS Arun's suggestion to reserve sites for SCs and STs, stating that limits cannot be placed on such reservations.

Hirearalihalli Hosts Child Rights Village Assembly

KOPPAL

District Child Protection Officer Ravikumar Pawara highlighted persistent child marriage, sexual violence, and abandonment, urging strict enforcement of POCSO 2012 and Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2016

Hirearalihalli village witnessed an important step towards protecting children's rights on Monday, as a Child Rights Gram Sabha was held at the Government Pre-University College. The event was jointly organized by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Administration, and the Hirearalihalli Gram Panchayat.

Speaking at the inauguration, Karnataka State Commission member Shekharagowda G. Ramatnal highlighted India's commitment to child rights. "Since ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, India has been working to ensure all children under 18 enjoy their rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. The state has launched the Child-Friendly Gram Panchayat Abhiyan to involve children in local governance and strengthen democratic participation," he said. Under this program, 5% of the total Gram Panchayat grant is reserved for children to carry out local activities. Awareness programs and special village assemblies for children are being organized across the state from November 2025 to January 2026.

District Child Protection Officer Ravikumar Pawara pointed out that despite awareness campaigns, issues like child marriage, sexual violence, and abandonment persist. He emphasized strict legal measures, including severe penalties under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act-2012 and the Child Marriage Prohibition Act-2006 Karnataka Amendment-2016, to prevent exploitation.

The Sabha encouraged children's participation in governance and advised reporting any cases of violence or harassment through the Children's Helpline-1098 or Emergency Helpline-112.

The program was presided over by Hirearalihalli Gram Panchayat President Shantamma Hanumappa Vaadi and attended by officials from Social Welfare, Health, Education, Police, and other departments, along with school and college students. Panchayat Development Officer Basavaraj Yaragera welcomed the participants, and District Child Protection Unit advisor Ravi Badigera proposed the vote of thanks.

The Child Rights Gram Sabha in Hirearalihalli served as a platform for children to voice their concerns and actively participate in local administration, strengthening awareness and protection measures across the community.

Departments collaborate: Anganwadis vaccinate children, schools raise awareness, and KPTCL ensures power supply for vaccine preservation

Koppal Aims Full Coverage for Polio Drive: B. Itnal

KOPPAL

Koppal district is gearing up for the National Pulse Polio Program, scheduled from December 21 to 24, with officials aiming for complete coverage. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal emphasized that the district should achieve 100% progress in vaccinating eligible children.

Speaking at a preliminary meeting at the District Collector's Office on Monday, Dr. Itnal highlighted the importance of preparedness and coordination among departments. "Even though no polio cases have been reported in our country, we must not be complacent. Every eligible child should receive the polio vaccine," he said.

To ensure success, all departments are collaborating. The Women and Child Development Department will open Anganwadi centers during the program, bringing children for vaccination and covering children in orphanages and brick kilns. The Education Department will organize awareness activities in schools and colleges, including slogans during morning prayers and marches led by students. The KPTCL will maintain uninterrupted power supply to preserve vaccine quality.

Awareness efforts will extend to urban and rural areas through local bodies and Panchayats, using garbage disposal vehicles to reach households. The Regional Transport Department will provide vehicles to support the campaign. NGOs and the Indian Medical Association will also join hands to achieve full coverage.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. T. Lingaraju explained that vaccination will cover 1,76,083 children under five in urban and rural areas. The program will start at booths on the first day, followed by door-to-door visits for three days. A total of 704 booths, 1408 teams, 34 mobile teams, 17 transit teams, and 2,816 vaccination workers have been deployed to reach every child.

Senior officials from the Health Department, AYUSH, School and Pre-University Education, Women and Child Development, and other district and taluk-level officers attended the meeting. Dr. Itnal urged everyone to actively participate in the drive, aiming to make Koppal a model district in the fight against polio.

Gadag Launches Awards Honoring Brave Women

GADAG

Gadag is all set to celebrate women's courage and achievements as applications open for the prestigious Kittur Chennamma and Veera Mujum Awards. These honors recognize women who have excelled in art, literature, sports, education, and those who have contributed significantly to women's development.

The Kittur Chennamma Award will go to women or organizations that have worked tirelessly for at least five years in the development of women in Gadag district. It also recognizes individuals excelling in sports, art, literature, and education. Organizations or individuals receiving salaries for their work are not eligible. Selection will focus on the impact and quality of the programs they have undertaken. The award ceremony is planned on International Women's Day or at a date set by the government. While awardees must attend in person, organizations can send representatives to receive their honors.

The Veera Mujum, or Brave Woman Award, celebrates women aged 18 to 45 who have displayed exceptional courage. This includes saving lives or performing daring acts that capture public attention. Only achievements between January 1 and December 31, 2025, are considered. Parents or guardians can submit applications on behalf of eligible women. The award carries a cash prize of ₹25,000 along with a certificate from the state government.

Interested women and organizations can collect application forms and detailed conditions from the Deputy Director, Women and Child Development Department at the District Administration Building, Hubballi Road, Gadag, or from Taluk Child Development Scheme Offices. All applications must be submitted by December 24, excluding holidays. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The Kittur Chennamma and Veera Mujum Awards promise to shine a spotlight on courage, dedication, and talent, inspiring women across the region to continue their remarkable work.

Everyone Must Protect Our Environment Together: Dr. Gadada

GADAG

Toxic materials like plastic and other harmful substances are mixing with natural resources such as soil, water, and air, causing serious health problems for humans and animals, warned Dr. Rajendra S. Gadada, Taluk Health Education Officer.

Speaking at the National Pollution Control Day program held at Dandappa Manvi Maternity Hospital, Dr. Gadada emphasized that environmental pollution is a major reason for many diseases. "A clean and healthy environment is essential to give the next generation a better life," he said. He urged citizens, students, women, and the public to take personal responsibility in protecting the environment and to spread awareness about pollution prevention.

The program was chaired by Mrs. Sudha Benthura and Bhudesh Siddana Gowda. The event began with a prayer by Mrs. Nirmala Marigowda and a welcome speech by Lilavati Chalavadi. BS Siddana Gowda organized the program, and Maulana Siddi delivered the vote of thanks.

People from various primary health centers in the taluk, ASHA workers, students, children, parents, patients, and members of the general public attended the event. Participants actively engaged in discussions about reducing pollution and keeping the environment clean.

Dr. Gadada reminded everyone that small efforts, when combined, can make a big difference. He appealed to all to work together for a cleaner, safer, and healthier Gadag, ensuring a sustainable environment for generations to come.

Rottweiler Owner Arrested After Woman Killed

DAVANGERE

Davangere Rural Police have arrested Shailesh Kumar, the owner of Rottweiler dogs that killed a woman. Kumar, who had been raising the dogs for several years, admitted leaving them near Honnur Gollarahatti after they had already attacked people, including his uncle and himself. The tragic incident occurred on the night of December 4, when 38-year-old Anitha, a widow with three children, was walking from Mallashettihalli to Honnur. The two aggressive dogs attacked her, and in a desperate attempt to escape, she fell into a roadside canal. The dogs bit her severely, causing injuries that led to her death on the way to the hospital. Villagers chased the dogs for hours before veterinary staff captured them; however, the animals died soon after, possibly due to exhaustion or injuries, according to Dr. R.G. Avinash. CCTV footage showed the dogs—Brado, Puppy, and Hero—had been transported in a goods auto before the attack. Kumar has been jailed, and authorities emphasized responsible pet ownership and caution with aggressive animals.

Excise Officials Seize Large Haul of Illegal Goan Liquor

KARWAR

Excise officials in Karwar carried out a major operation on Monday, seizing a large quantity of illegal Goan liquor being transported on a two-wheeler. The total haul included 71.25 litres of Goa Feni and 24 litres of Goan beer, valued at around Rs 1.03 crore.

The seizure happened near Moodgeri crematorium in Karwar taluk, when officials spotted the suspects. On seeing the excise team, the accused immediately fled, leaving behind 18 litres of liquor in a bag. Authorities have now launched a search to track down the culprits.

Excise officer Mahantesh, along with his team, led the raid. The operation is part of ongoing efforts to crack down on illegal liquor distribution in the region. Officials said the seized liquor was meant for illegal sale and could have caused substantial revenue loss to the state.

Residents welcomed the excise action, saying illegal liquor transport has been a growing concern in the area. "Such raids help curb crime and keep the community safe," a local observer said.

MARIKAMBA JATHRA 2026

Historic Kondli Marikamba Fair Set For 2026

SIDDAPUR

The much-awaited Kondli Sri Marikamba Devi Jathra Mahotsava, held once every five years, is scheduled to take place from February 17 to 24, 2026. MLA Bheemanna Naik announced the dates at a press conference held at the temple premises on Sunday evening. Leaders from all 11 villages associated with the temple attended a meeting and unanimously approved the schedule.

The festival will formally begin on February 10 with the traditional 'counting' ceremony. This will be followed by the Patta Seva of the Goddess, and pujas will be conducted at designated locations as per tradition. Devotees will also get the opportunity to receive darshan as the Goddess visits every house, wherever possible. On February 17, a major ritual called 'filling the life weed' of Sridevi will be performed, accompanied by a grand cultural parade.

This year, a new chariot is being constructed since the old one has deteriorated over time. The temple management said that construction is progressing rapidly under the guidance of Srinivasa Bhatta of Sri Kshetra Manjaguni.

Preparations for the fair are in full swing, with 19 sub-committees formed to ensure smooth conduct. MLA Naik has directed all government departments in the taluk to provide full cooperation. Cultural programmes will be the main highlight, and a one-day wrestling tournament, paused during the pandemic, will resume this year.

The temple authorities are also seeking donations for renovation of the temple building. Devotees from across the taluk, district, and state are being encouraged to contribute and participate. The press conference was attended by temple moktesar Ramesh Raikar, general secretary Sriram Naik, and other prominent members of the temple committee.

The festival promises to be a grand celebration of devotion, culture, and community participation, attracting people from near and far.

QUICK READ

Development works proposed under 2025–26 budget scheme

Bengaluru Rural

In a significant move to boost infrastructure and public welfare services, officials have released a detailed proposal outlining various development works to be undertaken under the 2025–26 fiscal budget. The plan highlights sector-wise allocations and project categories aimed at improving essential civic amenities. According to the document, funds will be directed toward projects across several departments, including water supply, road development, agriculture, education, and urban amenities. Authorities emphasised the need for effective execution to ensure the proposed works translate into tangible improvements for local communities.

Meeting scheduled to address issues under GP limits

Anekal

Authorities have announced that a special grievance-redressal meeting will be conducted to address various public issues within the Gram Panchayat limits. The meeting aims to review pending works, resolve local complaints, and ensure the smooth functioning of developmental activities. According to officials, the programme is scheduled for December 17 at 11:30 am, and local residents are encouraged to participate. The gathering will offer an opportunity for villagers to voice their grievances directly to the concerned department representatives. The Palalpya division has particularly urged citizens to make use of this platform to raise issues regarding civic amenities, infrastructure gaps, and service delivery.

Vatal Nagaraj demands ban on MES, warns of Kannada activism

Vatal Nagaraj urged the Karnataka government to immediately ban MES

RAMANAGARA

Karnataka Chaluvali Vatal Paksha president Vatal Nagaraj has demanded that the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) be banned in the state, declaring that he will hold a solo protest in front of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi if the government fails to act.

Speaking at a protest held on Monday at Aijuru Circle, he said MES has no role in Karnataka and no connection with the people of the state. Let them do whatever they want in Maharashtra. This government, which seems deaf and mute, is failing to show its strength. I will continue the struggle to alert the government. MES must be banned in Karnataka, he insisted.

Referring to Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar's recent remarks suggesting the division of Belagavi, Nagaraj demanded an immediate withdrawal of the statement. He questioned whether such comments were paving the way for merging parts of Belagavi with Maharashtra. He warned that Belagavi must remain united and any talk of division would face fierce resistance from Kannada activists.

Kannadigas are peace-loving, but do not provoke us. You repeatedly try to gain attention by creating controversies. Not an inch of Karnataka's land will be given away. MES hooliganism will not be tolerated. Vacate Belagavi first, or Kannadigas will be forced to show their strength, he cautioned.

Responding to the ongoing aviation crisis, Nagaraj criticised IndiGo Airlines for causing hardships to passengers over the past week. He said the company had failed to arrange alternatives and questioned whether the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation was functioning at all. Despite repeated issues, neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor the Civil Aviation Minister had intervened, he alleged. He demanded an immediate resolution and said the prime minister should resign if the crisis continues. Kannada activists plan to lay siege to the international airport on Tuesday afternoon to press their demand.

'National-level opportunity should be fully utilised by youth'

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The nation's youth receiving opportunities at the national level is truly commendable, and each participant must showcase their practical and technological abilities to the world, said Bhanu Chaitanya Verma, COO of Nagarjuna College of Engineering and Technology. He was speaking after inaugurating the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) – 2025 programme by lighting the lamp at the Nagarjuna Engineering and Technical College campus on Monday.

He noted that lakhs of young people across India participate in the Smart India Hackathon, and the institution is privileged to host 120 students from 11 states this year. This is a remarkable opportunity for engineering students. Everyone must make the best use of it. I thank the Ministry of Education and AICTE for placing their trust in us and offering this platform. The Nagarjuna institution will always remain committed to hosting such purposeful events, he said.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. N. Ranjan, OS and Director, DRDO Headquarters, New Delhi, said SIH-2025 is a national programme aimed at strengthening India's defence capability through innovation. No problem can be solved from a single dimension. Only a multidisciplinary approach can bring effective solutions.

Student secures spot at National Championship

CHITRADURGA

A remarkable achievement has been recorded by a young athlete from Chitradurga taluk, who has earned a prestigious place in the upcoming national-level sports meet. L.H. Abhi, a Class 10 student of BLR Residential Pre-University College (High School Section), Sirigere, clinched the first place in the state-level long jump event for the under-17 category held recently in Bengaluru.

Competing against talented athletes from across Karnataka, Abhi delivered an exceptional performance by leaping 6.81 metres, setting a new state record in the process. His outstanding effort not only secured him the gold medal but also ensured his selection for the national-level athletics meet.

The national championship will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from December 13 to 18, where Abhi will represent Karnataka in the long jump event. His selection has brought pride to his school, district, and mentors, who have played a pivotal role in nurturing his athletic talent.

Recognizing his success, officials from the education and sports departments congratulated the young athlete. Chitradurga Block Education Officer H. Girija, Block Resource Coordinator Sampath Kumar, and Taluk Physical Education Inspector D. Suresh praised Abhi's dedication and hard work. They also acknowledged the support of H.V. Naveen, the school's Physical Education Teacher.

IN THE COURT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AT RAMANAGARAM SUB-DIVISION, RAMANGARA.
PTCL: 31/2024-25

R. Gopal Krishna and others. .....PETITIONERS.
-V/S-
Thanikachalam and others. ....RESPONDENTS.

R1) Thanikachalam Son of Shanmugam, aged about 53 years, Kaveri Pattana, thomsam Pete, Dharmapuri District, Thamilnadu State.

PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, The above named petitioner have instituted this petition against you and others challenging the sale deed in respect of the land bearing survey No. 100/2 measuring 36 gunts, and survy No. 100/1 measuring 1 acre 20 guntas both lands are situated at Kothagondanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore south District as per the section 4(2) of PTCL Act 1978 and the petitioner prays to regrant the above said land. The petitioner took steps against you, through court as well as RPAD, which has returned un-served.

The above petition has been posted to 15-12-2025 at about 11-00 A.M. Take notice and appear before the Hon'ble Assistatant commissioner court at Ramanagara on the above mentioned date and time either personally or through your advocate. If you fail to appear, the above suit will be decided exparte.

By order of the Court,
Thasildar, Assistant commissioner court at Ramanagara.
Advocate for Petitioner:
Suresh N., Advocate,
K.G.N. Complex, 1st Floor,
B.M. Road, Ijoor, Ramanagara Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C. Mis, No. 1054/2025

Sri. MOHAMMED SAYEED, Aged about 30 years, S/o. Late. Abdul Samad, R/at, # 329/1, 13th Cross, Ibrahim Sab Street, Rashad Nagar, Bangalore North, Arabic College, Bangalore-560045, Now at Doddaballapur **PETITIONER.**

V/s

The Registrar Birth & Death, CMC Doddaballapur. **RESPONDENT.**

PAPER DRAFT PUBLICATION

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petitioner under section 13(3) & 14 of birth and death Act rules 1969, directing the respondent to issue the death Certificate of petitioner's father ABDUL SAMAD S/o. Late. Abdul Kareem @ Baji Sab who was reportedly died on 12-04-2001, at his Redidency at Shanthinagara, 1st Cross Doddaballapur town, Bengaluru Rural District.

Hence you are hereby summoned to appear before this court either in person or through an advocate duly instructed on your behalf on 08.01.2026 at 11 A.M. to answer or oppose the case thereto.

Take notice, if you fail to appear on the above said date and time, the case will be heard and decided ex-party.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 03.12.2025

By the order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, II Additional Civil Judge & JMFC JMFC Doddaballapur
Advocate for Petitioner: **ABDUL MUJEEB**
Doddaballapur, Date: 01-12-2025.

IKF Home Finance Limited

Equinox by Phoenix-Tower 3,10th Floor,Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Rai Durg, Gachibowli, Hyderabad |Telangana – 500081

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)]

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IKF Home Finance Ltd.** (hereinafter referred to as "IKF") under Secuitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has Taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **"IKF"** for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) LAN	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	**Lan :- LNXTK03723-240009932 1. B Lokesha. 2. Lavanya S. 3. D Basavaiah.** Are R/O. S/O Shri Basavaiah, Bheemasandra SSMC Post, Bellavi Road Tumkur, Tumkur District, Temple, Bheemasandra B. O, Tumkur, Karnataka, (India) - 572107	All The Peice And Parcel Building Bearing Khata No. 273/1003(Old Khata No. 1003/273/1003) Pid No. 47432, At Ward No 5, Bheemasandra Village, Kasabha Hobli, Tumkur Dist- 572107, Temple -572107 (Adm. East To West 30' North To South 60') Bounded By **East :** House Belogs To Rajanna, **West** : Govt. Road, **North :** Site Belongs To Narayanappa, **South :** House Belongs To Chikkasiddaiah	**22.09.2025 Rs. 10,01,566/- (Rupees Ten lakh One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Six Only)**	**05.12.2025**

Place : Tumkur, Karnataka
Date : 05.12.2025

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For IKF Home Finance Limited

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Basavanta Nemappa Lamani, Sheela Basvant Lamani, Maruti Demanna Kulumakar, **/NHL00260034811/** Hubli	All That Part & Parcel of The Property Bearing Gram Panchayath No. 1088, Measuring 158.86 Sq Mtrs., Bearing E-Property No. 152701100300120549, Kiravatti Village, Tq: Yallapur Dist: Uttar Kannada, Karnataka, Pin: 581412. East-House of Dadapir, West-Govt. Road, South-House of Rameeza Shaik, North-House of P Tangappa	16-10-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.453460/-
2	Ramesh N, Shilpa T, Ananda C, **/NHL00340026121/** Mysore	Property No. 33/2, Pl.D. No.152200300115900070, Haramballikoppalu Village & Hosaagrahara Gp & Kr Nagara Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka, Pin: 571601. Total Measuring 51.19 Sq Meters. East-House Belongs To Kalaiah, West-House Belongs To Shanthamma Parasaiah, South-Road, North-House Belongs To Nagaiah	06-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.714661/-
3	Zafrulla B, Kushnuda Banu, Bhasheer Sab, Parveen Bl, **/NHL00510029975/** Shimoga	PropertyNo.75/A,E-PropertyNo.152400100900800082, Measuring Total 132.85 Sq. Meter, Sidlipura Village, Bhadravati Taluk, Shimoga, Karnataka, Pin: 577227. East-Property of Seenappa, West-Property of Pyaru, South-Road, North-Road	06-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.478234/-
4	Mallappa Shankareppa Iti, Madevi Shankarappa Iti, Yallappa Dandin, **/NHL01370039819/** Vijayapura	Property No. 1196/1, Measuring Total 1474 Sq. Ft., Ukkali Village, Tq: Basavan Bagewadi, Dist: Vijayapur, Karnataka, Pin: 586102. East-Road, West-Shankareppa Iti, South-Road, North-Property of Ramabai Iti	06-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.236824/-
5	Chandramma, Nanjashetti, **/MLAP0034041817/** Mysore	Property No. 256, Pl.D. No. 152100102300100310, Chawdenahalli Village, Chawdenahalli Gram Panchayath, KR Pete Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, Pin: 571423. Totally 111.48 Square Meters. East-Land Belongs To Sunanda, West-Road, South-Conservancy And House Belongs To Varalakshmi, North-Property Belongs To Ashoka	06-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.419885/-
6	Kamalamma, Shivanna, Mahadeva, **/MHL00340043625/** Mysore	Property No. 109 Pl.D. No. 152200623070020014, Hasuvinakavalu Village, Chikkanerale Gp, Periyapatna Thaluk, Mysore District, Karnataka, Pin: 571102. Admeasuring 148.59 Sq. Mts. East-Gramatana, West-House of Rajamma, South-Road, North-Gamatana Vacant Place	06-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.373121/-
7	Bhargavi B C, Shivananda N N, Sharadhamma N, Lakshmama N, **/NHL00910026171/** Hassan	Property Bearing No. 151600502800520189, Gram Panchayat D No. 358, Property Id No. 358, Survey No.96/9, Nambihalli (V), Noranakki Gate Gramapanchayath, Chanrayapattana(T), Hassan (D), Karnataka, Pin: 573116. Totally Measuring 123.93 Square Meters. East-Conservancy, West-Own Property, South-Road, North-Own Property	07-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.1014826/-
8	Sharanappa N, Jyothi Laxmi, Yogesh K, **/NLAP0051033399/** Shimoga	Property No. 265/1, E-Property No. 152400501000400432, Measuring Total 174.19 Sq. Meter, Sadashivapura Village, B. Beernahalli Village Panchayat, Shimoga Taluk & District, Karnataka, Pin:577222. East-Property of Dharmendra, West-Property of Vijayamma, South-Road, North-Property of Ambeer	07-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.417821/-
9	Shivanna A, Rathnamma, Munimarakka, **/MLAP0092047494/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	Property No. 225/250, Pl.D. No. 152900400701520498, Kodiyalakarenahalli Village, Byramangala Gramapanchayath, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka, Pin: 562109. Totally 55.74 Square Meters. East-Passage, West Property Belongs To Hombaiah, South-Road, North-Property Belongs To Anjappa	07-11-2025	07-11-2025 & Rs.574096/-
10	Manjunatha A, Annaiah Kunnamalegowda, Prathibha H R, **/MO90LALON S000005006486/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 304/5/1, Pl.D. No. 152200419117020442, Situated At Kadakola Grama, Kadakola Gramapanchayat, Mysore Block, Mysore (D). Measuring : East To West : 8.8392 Meter & North To South: 16.1544 Meter. Karnataka, Pin: 571311. East-Property of Rachamma & Kempamma, West-House of Kempamma., South-Property of Marigowda, North-Road	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.455852/-
11	Hanumanthaiah G, Harshith B H, Pushpa K, Rakshith B H, **/NHL00920002136/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 704/475, Pl.D. No. 152900100500220035 Situated At Bhoohalli Village, Bhoohalli Grama Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk And Ramanagara Dist., Measuring East To West 7.62 Mtr And North To South 7.62 Mtr In Karnataka, Pin: 562138. East-Remaining Property And Govt. Road, West-Remaining Property And Govt. Road, South-Remaining Property And Property of Shivanna, North-Remaining Property And Property of Jayamma	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.646716/-
12	Ravishankar K, Kalegowda B, Sarojamma S, **/NHL00340005784/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Attahalli Gramapanchayathi Property No. 139 And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 152200700907020130 Situated At Kanchanahalli Village, T. Narasipura Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Attahalli Gramapanchayathi Measuring East To West: 8.68 Meters And North To South: 17.67 Meters Karnataka, Pin: 571101. East-Property of Bettamma, West- Property of Nagaraju, South- Property of Devaraju, North-Road	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.623375/-
13	Mahendra C G, Jayamma T, Uma G, **/NLAP0092007364/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 138/34/A, Pl.D. No. 152900301600200138, Situated At Chandurayanahalli Village, Kalya Grama Panchayath, Magadi Taluk And Ramanagara District, Measuring East To West 7.62 Meters And North To South 6.096 Meters Total 46.45 Square Meter And Consisting of Building Having Built Up Area of 46.45 Square Meter Karnataka, Pin: 562120. East-Street, West-Property Belong To Narasingarao, South-Road, North- House Belongs To Venkatanarasamma.	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.498906/-
14	Chandarappa Hanamantappa Ningoji, Vijayalaxmi Chandrappa Ningoji, Imamasab Husensab Doddamani, **/NLAP0026007659/** Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Town Panchayath No. 693, Property No. 4-109-32, Total Measuring 68.355 Sq Mtr Situated At Tigadikeri Oni, Mulgund, Dist: Gadag Karnataka, Pin: 582117. East-Govt. Road, West-Property of R N Deshpande, South- Property of Basappa Ningoji, North-Property of Mudakappa Udachagondavar	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.519073/-
15	Shivakumara L, Lakshmamma L, Lakshmiha L, **/NHL00900014257/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Gavadagere Gramapanchayathi Property No. 834/812 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11 A Unique No. 152200200317400962 Situated At Gavadagere Village, Hunasuru Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Gavadagere Gramapanchayathi Measuring East To West: 10.06 Meters And North To South: 5.48 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571610. East-Road, West-House of Mahadeva, South- Vacant Site of Devamma, North- House of Kadaraiah	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.499397/-
16	Siddarajaswamy M, Sakamma V, Mahesha Chikka Rangashetty, **/NHL00340014298/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.109, Pl.D. No. 152200540047000223, Situated At Haginavalu Village, Haginavalu Grama Panchayath, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East To West 4.2672 Meters And North To South 15.24 Meters, Totally 65.03 Square Meters Karnataka, Pin: 571315. East-Gurumalleshwara Mutt., West- House Belongs To H. M. Madappa., South-Site Belongs To Siddarajamma, North-Drainagae	08-11-2025	08-11-2025 & Rs.323546/-
17	Chethan H N, Susheela S, Nagaraju H N, Chandan H N, **/NHL00340020219/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 299. Pl.D No. 152100600200820114, Situated At Hosakote Grama, Halebidu Gramapanchayat, Pandavapura Block, Mandya (D). Measuring: E-W: 7.9248 Meter & N-S: 15.24 Meter. Admeasuring: 120.77 Sq Mts. Karnataka, Pin: 571434. East-Galli & House of Rathnamma, West-Galli & House of Swamygowda, South-Beedi, North-Property of Mylari Papanna	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.690192/-
18	Shivaraju M, Nagamma M, Shivakumara R, **/NHL00340024149/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 221/220, Pl.D. No. 152200502600300265, Situated At Goluru Grama, Devarasanahalli Gramapanchayat, Nanjangud Block, Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 9.144 Meter & N-S: 12.192 Meter. Admeasuring: 111.48 Sq Mts. Karnataka, Pin: 571312. East-Site of Rathnamma, West-Road, South-Own Property, North-Site of Swamy	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.516236/-
19	Ningamma N, Ninganna M, **/MHL00340025035/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Banduru Gramapanchayathi Property No. 9/6/1 And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 152100304300720069 Situated At Sasiyalapura Village, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Within The Jurisdiction of Banduru Gramapanchayathi Measuring East To West: 15.54 Meters And North To South: 17.07 Meters, Totally Measuring 265.46 Square Meters And Building Measuring 110.63 Square Meters. Karnataka, Pin: 571430. East-House of Shivanna Son of Late. Halligowda, West- House of Ningamma Wife of K. Madaiah, South-Village Road, North-Revenue Land	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.358237/-
20	Usha V, Sanjay Nayak R, **/MHL00340027699/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 241, Block-02, Situated At Block-02, Gururu Kollapaluru, Ramabayinagara, Mysore City & Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 20.00 Feet & N-S: 30.00 Feet. Karnataka, Pin: 570008. East-Site No. 240, West-Site No. 242, South-Site No. 262, North-Road	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.419471/-
21	Harisha P, Asha R, Puttaraju A, **/NHL00340030013/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 71, Pl.D. No. 152100502401000076, Situated At Kumbarakoppalu Grama, Godenahalli Gramapanchayat, Nagamangala Block, Mandya (D). Measuring: E-W: 5.48640 Meter & N-S: 7.01040 Meter Admeasuring 38.46 Sq. Mts. Karnataka, Pin: 571418. East-Galli & Site of Shanthamma, West-Galli & House of Lalithamma, South-Beedi, North-Galli & House of Jayamma	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.486305/-
22	Ramesha, Manjula, Shanthaiah **/NHL00910045319/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600403200620033, Gram Panchayath Property No. 313, And Property Situated At Nagenahalli Village, Hunuganahalli Gram Panchayath, Belur Taluk, Hassan District Measuring East To West 8.5344 And North To South 6.70560000000000004, Totally Measuring 57.22 Square Meters And Constricted Plinth Area 57.22 Square Meters Karnataka, Pin: 573115. East-Road, West-Government, South-House Property of Sri. Shanthaiah, North-House Property of Sri. Sannaiah	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.313236/-
23	Radha Krishna, Sakamma, Arpitha, **/NHL00340044285/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 343/295, Pl.D. No. 152200602510200351, Situated At Benagalu Grama, Channakal Kavalu Gramapanchayat, Periyapatna Block, Mysore (D). Measuring: E-W: 8.00 Meter & N-S: 8.00 Meter Admeasuring: 64.00 Sq Mts. Karnataka, Pin: 571102. East-Government Road, West-Vacant Site of Boraiah, South-Site of Thammaiah, North-House of Kempamma	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.239799/-
24	Vishwanatha G R, Kaalamma U Sannamma, Lakshmamma, **/NHL00910046457/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing Property Id No. 151600504101300231, Gram Panchayath Khatha No. 177, Survey No. 211/3A3a5 And Property Situated At Gowdagere Village, Gowdagere Gram Panchayath, Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District Measuring East To West: 8.2296 Meters And North To South: 9.144 Meters And constructed Plinth Area 75.25 Square Meters Karnataka, Pin: 573116. East-Conservancy And House Property of Sri. Kumar, West-House Property of Sri. Dharmegowda, South-Property of Sri. Thopegowda., North-Own Property of Sri. Manjegowda	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.399582/-
25	Thippamma, Annaiah R, **/MLAP0130045748/** Chitradurga	Property Khatha No.158, E-Property No.151000401500220086, Measuring E-W:13.00 Mtr, N-S:10.00 Mtr, Total: 130.00 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area:130.00 Sq Mtr, Situated At Dasayaiahnahatti Village, Madderu Grama Panchayath, Holalkere Tq, Chitradurga Dist. Karnataka, Pin: 577527. East-House of Gangappa, West- House of Ravikumar, South-House of Chanchramma, North-Road	09-11-2025	10-11-2025 & Rs.429216/-
26	Shameena Banu, Vajed, Saleem, Asma Begum, Asiya Banu S, **/MLAP0117034647/** Raichur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Plot Property Bearing Tmc No. 6-3-217 Its E Property No. 14-36-6000254, Totally Measuring 65.0321 Sq Meter, Situated At Ward No. 15 Kumbar Oni Village Within Tmc Manvi Limits, Tq Manvi Dist Raichur, Karnataka - 584123. East-Road, West- House of Yallamma, South-Road, North- House Thimmayya Shetty	03-11-2025	05-11-2025 & Rs.709486/-
27	Sindhushree B N, Basavarajappa T, Gopalakrishna B, Shusheelamma B, **/MLAP0051031487/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 1/2D, E-Property No. 152400403900300071, Measuring East-West 18.288 Meter X North-South 12.192 Meter, Total 222.97 Sq. Meter, Including 86.49 Sq. Meter House Situated At Shiddihalli Village, Thogarsi Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577433. East-Road, West-Road, South-Road, North-Property of Durgappa S/O Tayappa	04-11-2025	05-11-2025 & Rs.516031/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 9th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

Office : 08262- 230420 Fax: 08262-232272 Commissioner : 08262-232272 Helpline: 08262-232222
E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website : www.chickmagalur.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಿಎಂಸಿ/ಸಿಕೆಎಂ/ನನಿಕಾ/ಕು.ನೀ.ಸ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.12.2025

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender is invited through e-procurement from Authorised Sellers/Distributors/Suppliers for supply of the materials mentioned below under City Municipal Council Fund . Those interested can submit the Tender subject to conditions.

Sl No.	Details of the Vehicle	E.M.D. (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/IND 5734	58,750.00
2	DMA/2025-26/IND 5741	24,000.00

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement.

1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 20.12.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.

2. Date of opening Technical Bid: 22.12.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Due to any reason, if there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- (Smt. B. Sheela Dinesh) President **Sd/- (Smt. Lalitha Ravinaik) Vice President**
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru. **City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.**
Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm/No.116/ksmca/25-26/1354

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NANDINI MAHANTESH PAGADI D/o GUDDAPPA W/o MAHANTESH NINGAPPA PAGADI, R/o Huralikuppi, Huralikoppi, Haveri, Karnataka - 581118, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAVITA G GODAMANI.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AISHA BILAL MIR**, D/o. Parveez Roohi Mir, Resident of No.02/11, Third Floor, Spencer Road, Coles Park, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005, have changed my name to AISHA BILAL D/o. **PARVEEZ ROOHI**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 08.12.2025 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SAYED ANWAR JANI BABU**, S/o. Jani Babu, Residing at No.86, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Medimallasandra, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru-560117, have changed my name to **JOHNY ANWAR JANIBABU**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 08.12.2025 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ANSAR**, S/o Jani, resident of No 23, B H E L Compound, S R K Garden, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560041, have changed my name to **SYED ANSAR**, vide affidavit dated: 08.12.2025, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore.

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

3M INDIA LIMITED
CIN: L31300KA1987PLC013543, Website: www.3m.com/in,
Mail id- investorhelpdesk.in@mmm.com
PLOT NO 48-51 ELECTRONICS CITY, HOSUR ROAD, BANGALORE – 560100

The following Share Certificates of the Company have been reported as lost / misplaced and the holder of the said Share Certificate share requested the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

Notice is hereby given that the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates to the below mentioned persons unless a valid objection is received by the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and no claims will be entertained by the Company with respect to the original Share Certificates after the issue of duplicate thereof.

Sl.no	Shareholder(s) name	Folio no.	Certificate	No of Shares	Distinctive no
1	RAKESH DHARIWAL	B3M012543	14154	40	8353681-8353720

Any person who has/have a claim in respect of the said certificates should lodge his/her/their claim with all supporting documents with the Company at its Registered / Corporate Office. If no valid and legitimate claim is received within 15 days from the appearance of this notice, the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates to the person listed above and no further claim would be entertained from any person(s).

Date: 09/12/2025
Place: Bangalore

For 3M INDIA LIMITED,
Pratap Rudra
Company Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/5214 DATE: 06/12/2025

E-Tender Notification-1/ Corrigendum e-Tender Notification

This Office Tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/4871 Dated 18/11/2025 was called. Now First time extension/Corrigendum is made to extract more bidders for the work at Sl No. 2 is as below.

Modified Calendar of events : 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 16-12-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 18-12-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 20-12-2025 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1454/KSMCA/2025-26

CHAMARAJANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt of Karnataka)

Sy. No: 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar-571313

E-Mail: directorcimsernagara@gmail.com Website: https://cimsernagara.karnataka.gov.in
No. CIMS/SCP/TSP/Pa.Pu./144/2025-26 Tel: 08226-226701 Dated: 28.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Tender for the supply of various Text Books under SCP/TSP Scheme and also for CentralLibrary of this Institution under GIA budget of this Institution.

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of Various Books to the students under SCP / TSP Scheme and also for Central Library under GIA budget of this Institution. Interested Tenderers are informed to apply the tender on or before 24.12.2025 at 5.00 pm through **e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

If, the last date for submission of tender declared as Government Holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification in this regard will be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for furthers information.

Dean and Director,
Chamarajanagara Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamarajanagar.

So: WADON: W. 200:541:2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Chinese national detained for visiting J&K without permission

Srinagar

A Chinese national visiting J&K and Ladakh without permission has been detained by authorities, officials said. Hu Congtai, 29, arrived in Delhi on November 19 on a tourist visa, which permitted him to visit Buddhist religious places in Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya, and Kushinagar, according to officials. However, leveraging his resemblance to locals, he boarded a flight to Leh on November 20 and did not register at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office counter located at the Leh airport. During his stay, he toured the Zanskar region for three days and visited places of importance in the Himalayan town before landing in Srinagar on December 1, the official said.

College student death: Patnaik demands action

Bhubaneswar

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President and former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday expressed deep shock and anger over the tragic death of a female college student who was set ablaze in Lanjibenda, Rajgangpur, questioning the state government's response to the crime. The victim, identified as a local college student, succumbed to severe burns after being attacked, triggering widespread outrage across the state. In a social media post, Patnaik described the incident as extremely heartbreaking and offered his condolences to the bereaved family.

Woman BLO accused of giving proxy for another BLO

Kolkata

The first phase of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of West Bengal's electoral rolls is almost over. However, the controversy regarding Booth Level Officers (BLO) is refusing to die down. This time a BLO has been accused of giving proxy of another BLO who is related to her. The incident has taken place in Baruipur area of South 24 Parganas district. A source in the state administration said on Monday that anganwadi worker Debi Haldar was assigned as the BLO of booth number 94 on December 4, replacing the previous BLO Soma Sen against whom complaints were raised by local people.

Yadav slams BJP for 'owning nationalism' during LS debate

Akhilesh Yadav criticised the BJP for claiming exclusive nationalism and politicising Vande Mataram during a special Lok Sabha session

NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing the ruling party of attempting to own everything and claim exclusive nationalism, which he termed Rashtra-vivadi (anti-national). Speaking during a special session of the Lok Sabha convened to mark 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram, Yadav emphasised that the song belonged to every Indian and must never be reduced to a political tool.

In his address, Yadav recalled the deep historical significance of Vande Mataram, stating that its roots in India's freedom struggle should remain above partisan narratives. When in Kolkata, Congress leaders and Rabindranath Tagore sang this, it reached the common people, and when people fought against the British, the slogan of Vande Mataram played a major role in uniting them, he said. He noted that the song had once alarmed British authorities to the extent that they jailed people under sedition charges for chanting it. From 1905 to 1908, Vande Mataram was banned by the British, but they could not stop our revolution, and our freedom fighters kept taking it forward, he added.

Targeting the BJP's ideological positioning, Yadav alleged that the ruling party wanted to own everything, including ideas and values it had no historical connection with. He referred to earlier debates during the formation of the BJP and the ideological direction its early leadership chose to follow. When the organisation was being formed, there was a debate on whether the BJP would walk the secular and socialist path or not.

Kabir's mosque donation video triggers fresh storm

KOLKATA

A video showing stacks of currency notes being counted as part of the donations for the proposed Babri Mosque at Beldanga in Murshidabad district has drawn wide attention after suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir posted it on his social media page. The footage has circulated rapidly, prompting fresh debate on the scale and source of the funds collected.

The legislator from the Bharatpur constituency has hinted that he may launch his new political party on December 22. Kabir said on Monday that 11 trunks filled with currency notes had been collected as cash offerings from local residents since Saturday, the day the foundation stone for the proposed mosque was laid.

The exact worth of the currencies collected as cash donations is yet to be ascertained, he said.

He added that online contributions had also come in, noting that about Rs 93 lakh had been received through a QR code he had posted on his social media page.

Kabir, however, did not divulge the details about an unnamed donor whom he says has pledged about Rs 80 crore for the project. He only described the individual as a Muslim businessman with an annual turnover of more than Rs 4,000 crore. He did not disclose the person's identity or place of origin, which has led to further questions.

He reiterated that the proposed mosque budget is Rs 300 crore, with plans to replicate the original structure that stood in Ayodhya, which was demolished on December 6, 1992.

Vijay's TVK filed a new application for its December 16 Erode rally after police denied the original venue.

TVK submits fresh request for permission to hold rally in Erode

ERODE

Actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) has renewed its push to conduct a major public rally in Erode on December 16, submitting a fresh application on Monday after the district police rejected its earlier request citing security and space constraints. The move underscores the party's determination to proceed with one of its most significant campaign events ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

TVK's State Executive Committee Chief Coordinator Sengottaiyan, accompanied by senior party administrators, met Erode Collector Kandhasamy at the Collectorate camp office in Sampath Nagar on Monday morning. The delegation formally submitted a renewed petition seeking permission for the rally. A parallel representation was also filed with the Erode District Superintendent of Police, signalling the party's intention to follow due procedure despite the setback.

The rally was initially planned on a seven-acre private vacant land located near Pavalathampalayam on the Erode–Perundurai Road. However, a police team led by Superintendent of Police Sujatha inspected the venue and concluded that it lacked adequate space for crowd management. Officials also expressed concerns over potential safety risks, prompting the denial of permission.

Following the refusal, TVK leaders held urgent consultations with district-level executives to reassess venue options. During these discussions, an alternative site near Perundurai was identified as a more viable location. The party submitted a fresh request seeking police clearance for the new venue later in the day.

Sengottaiyan affirmed TVK's commitment to adhering to all government regulations, stating, We will conduct the rally strictly in accordance with government rules and security guidelines once permission is granted.

Maharashtra government urges Centre to include leopards in Schedule 2 of the Act

NAGPUR

The Maharashtra government has appealed to the Centre to exclude leopards from Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act and include them in Schedule 2 amid increasing deaths due to attacks in various parts of the state.

Forest Minister Ganesh Naik on Monday said the burgeoning man-animal conflict has been extensively discussed in the state government, and the issue has also been taken up with the Centre with an appeal for its urgent intervention.

Naik said that the conservationists and some people took a serious objection to my statement that the forest department officers should shoot the leopards after a few deaths were reported, especially in residential colonies. However, the leopards are included in Schedule One. Therefore, there are limitations on catching and killing man-eating leopards. Therefore, a proposal has now been sent to the Central government to remove leopards from Schedule One. Permission for the sterilisation of leopards has been received from the Central government. Therefore, man-eating leopards should be found and sterilised, he added.

According to the forest department sources, leopards are currently listed under Schedule I, which gives them the highest level of protection, making the process of catching or killing man-eating leopards a restricted and complicated process.

Following a recent increase in fatal leopard attacks on humans, particularly in the Pune, Nashik, and Ahilyanagar districts, residents and politicians have demanded government action. The intent behind including leopards in Schedule 2 is to enable broader intervention in conflict zones and provide authorities with more flexibility in dealing with problem animals, such as easier capture, translocation, or, in extreme cases, killing of man-eaters if they cannot be captured or tranquillised.

Flight cancellations leave Patna passengers stranded

PATNA

The ongoing IndiGo operational crisis continued to disrupt air travel from Patna Airport on Monday, with multiple flights cancelled, leaving passengers stranded for the seventh consecutive day.

On Sunday, many travellers missed job interviews and important engagements, while others were forced to wait at the airport for hours. A total of 10 IndiGo flights to Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and other destinations were cancelled.

Several arrival and departure flights also experienced delays of up to 30 minutes.

According to airport officials, five IndiGo flights scheduled to depart on Monday to cities including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata have also been cancelled. Passengers affected by cancellations or delays are being contacted individually.

As a result, the footfall at IndiGo ticket counters on Sunday was noticeably lower than usual. Many passengers claimed their flight tickets were renewed twice or thrice, but they were unable to travel to their desired destinations due to cancellations.

Airline officials have stated that operations are expected to return to normal by December 15. A help desk has also been set up at the airport, and a dedicated helpline -- 9771449159 -- has been issued for travellers.

12 Maoists, including top leader Ramdher to surrender

RAIPUR

Twelve maoists, including top leader Ramdher Majji, surrendered in Chhattisgarh, dealing a major setback to Maoist operations.

In a significant achievement for security forces, 12 Naxalites — among them the notorious Central Committee Member (CCM) Ramdher Majji — surrendered before police authorities in Chhattisgarh's Khairagarh Chhuikhadan Gandai district. The surrender, which took place at the Bakarkatta police station, is being hailed as one of the most impactful blows to Maoist influence in the Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh (MMC) zone in recent years.

Ramdher Majji, who carried a reward of ₹1 crore on his head, was widely regarded as one of the most dangerous Maoist operatives in central India. His strategic expertise, involvement in major operations, and long-standing presence in the MMC special zonal committee area made him one of the foremost challenges for security agencies across the three states. Majji surrendered along with several senior cadres, including ACM Ramsingh Dada and ACM Sukesh Pottam, and handed over an AK-47 rifle, marking a decisive shift in the ongoing counter-insurgency efforts.

Police confirmed the recovery of a sizeable cache of weapons from the group, including AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles, SLRs, .303 rifles, and 0.30 carbines. Among the 12 who surrendered were six women cadres, indicating the deep and long-standing participation of women in the upper ranks of the Maoist movement. Those who laid down arms include Lakshmi, Sheela, Yogita, Kavita, Sagar, DVCM Lalita, and DVCM Janaki. Other prominent surrenderees include DVCM Chandu Usendi and DVCM Prem.

According to senior officials, the surrender marks a critical milestone in dismantling Maoist operations in the region. Police sources revealed that the group had been active in formulating strategies and executing operations within the MMC's special zonal committee area, often posing severe threats to state forces. The collapse of the network, particularly following Majji's surrender, is being viewed as a turning point in the fight against left-wing extremism.

Minimum temperature drops to minus 2.4 in J&K's Srinagar

SRINAGAR

Intense cold wave continued across Kashmir Valley on Monday as minimum temperature dropped to minus 2.4 degrees Celsius in Srinagar city with no immediate relief in sight from the biting cold. An intense dry cold wave has caused widespread flu and cold-related chest ailments in the valley, as doctors have issued advisories asking people not to expose themselves to severe dry cold.

The air quality index (AQI) has worsened due to the lack of precipitation and continuing addition to suspended particulate matter (SPM) in the air.

It is very important that we don't expose ourselves, especially elders and children, to the abrupt cold outside homes. The number of patients reporting with flu and other chest-related ailments triggered by dry cold has actually more than doubled during the last week, senior pulmonologist, Dr Naveed Nazir Shah said.

Night temperature remained several notches below the freezing point in other parts of the Valley as well on Monday. The Meteorological (MeT) Department officials said the minimum temperature was minus 2.4 degrees Celsius in Srinagar city, while it was minus 0.4 in Pahalgam and minus 2.5 in Gulmarg.

Jammu city had 7.9, Katra town 9.6, Batote 5.8, Banihal 4.5 and Bhaderwah 2.6 degrees as the minimum temperature. Except for a feeble western disturbance (WD) causing light snowfall in the higher reaches, there is little possibility of any major weather activity in J&K till December 15, the MeT department officials said.

Given the prevailing weather conditions, the minimum temperature is likely to drop further in the coming days, the MeT department officials added.

HYDERABAD AIRPORT THREATS

Hyderabad Airport on alert after bomb threats to flights

HYDERABAD

A fresh wave of bomb threat emails targeting three flights sent security agencies at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) into high alert. The threats, received via email by RGIA customer support, claimed explosives were aboard flights arriving from Kannur, Frankfurt, and London Heathrow. Airport authorities immediately activated standard emergency protocols, mobilising CISF personnel, police units, and bomb disposal squads. Despite the panic sparked by the messages, all three flights landed safely and were declared clear following extensive inspections.

According to airport officials, IndiGo flight 6E 7178 from Kannur landed without incident at 10:50 p.m. on Sunday. Shortly after midnight, Lufthansa flight LH 752 from Frankfurt touched down safely at 2 a.m. on Monday. British Airways flight BA 277 from Heathrow — the third aircraft mentioned in the threat — landed at 5:20 a.m. All flights were thoroughly checked by security personnel, and the threats were confirmed to be hoaxes.

Authorities have launched an investigation to trace the origin of the threatening email. The incident has intensified concerns after a similar series of threats was issued just a day earlier. On Saturday, December 6, four flights were targeted within a 12-hour span, prompting widespread security measures at RGIA.

In Saturday's incidents, the hoax threats were emailed for Air India flight AI 2879 from Delhi, British Airways flight BA 277 from Heathrow, and Singapore Airlines flight SQ 518 from Singapore — all of which landed safely at Hyderabad after comprehensive security checks. However, Kuwait Airways flight KU 373 from Kuwait opted to return to its departure airport as a precaution since Kuwait was the closest landing point when the threat was detected.

QUICK READ

Mamata Banerjee orchestrated Babri-style mosque ceremony

New Delhi

Minister Giriraj Singh on Monday criticised the foundation-laying ceremony of a Babri Masjid-style mosque by suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir, alleging that the act was not an individual initiative but part of a political strategy backed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Giriraj Singh claimed, It is not Humayun Kabir, but Mamata Banerjee who has orchestrated this. She is creating drama and extracting statements from her MPs as part of a planned narrative. He further alleged that the ceremony was an attempt to reignite Hindu-Muslim tensions.

Mahotsav offers tribute to Pramukh Swami Maharaj

Ahmedabad

The culmination of the much-anticipated Pramukh Varni Amrut Mahotsav, which resonated throughout the past year, unfolded in grand splendour at the iconic Sabarmati Riverfront Event Center in Ahmedabad during the weekend. The event celebrated the selfless services of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, through a series of breathtaking presentations. A magnificent assembly was held on the banks of the Sabarmati River at the Riverfront Event Center to celebrate the Pramukh Varni Amrut Mahotsav, honouring 75 years since Shastriji Maharaj, founder of BAPS, appointed Pramukh Swami Maharaj as President of BAPS at the Ambli Vali Pol.

Maharashtra seeks ₹75k cr amid debt

Nagpur

Amid rising public debt of Rs 9.32 lakh crore and higher revenue and fiscal deficits, the Maharashtra government on Monday placed supplementary demands amounting to Rs 75,286.38 crore before the state legislature. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar presented the demands on the opening day of the week-long winter session. Out of the total outlay, Rs 15,648 crore has been set aside for compensation and financial aid to farmers affected by rain and floods, at a time when the state is rolling out a Rs 32,000 crore relief package for those hit by extreme weather.

Empowering women is core of MMUA scheme: Assam CM

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the MMUA scheme's focus on women's financial independence as thousands receive initial seed funding.

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday reiterated that empowering women to become financially independent remains the central objective of the state government's flagship Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA). His remarks, posted on X, come as thousands of eligible beneficiaries across Assam have begun receiving the ₹10,000 seed fund support under the scheme. The disbursal marks a significant step in the state's ongoing efforts to strengthen self-help groups (SHGs), enhance livelihood avenues, and bring more women into formal economic decision-making.

Launched earlier this year, MMUA seeks to offer direct financial assistance to women from low-income households and SHG networks. The initiative aims to help women start small businesses, expand their existing livelihood activities, or invest in new income-generating ventures. By offering a seed fund that requires minimal paperwork and bypasses traditional banking hurdles, the scheme eliminates one of the biggest barriers rural and semi-urban women face — access to formal credit.

A senior government official stated that the scheme is expected to benefit several lakh women as disbursements move ahead in phases. The programme is seen as a natural progression of the Assam government's sustained focus on women-centric welfare measures in recent years.

One of the most notable initiatives in this regard is the Orunodoi scheme, which provides monthly financial aid directly to women as the primary household beneficiaries. The financial support ensures better access to nutrition, healthcare, and other essential goods, while strengthening women's decision-making roles at home. Together, programmes like Orunodoi and MMUA represent Assam's broader push to improve economic stability and social empowerment for women.

Maharashtra tables bill to amend Public Trusts Act

NAGPUR

The Maharashtra government introduced amendments to standardise trust administration, reduce litigation, and enhance oversight through clearer trustee classifications.

The Maharashtra government on Monday tabled a Bill to amend the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, aiming to bring greater clarity, accountability, and uniformity to the administration of public, religious, and charitable trusts across the state. The amendments seek to resolve long-standing issues related to trustee appointments, property ownership disputes, and violations affecting beneficiaries and public welfare.

A key proposal in the Bill is the revision of the existing definition of trustee under Section 2(18). The amendment introduces two specific categories — tenure trustees and perpetual trustees — to distinguish members based on the duration of their appointment. This change, the Bill states, is essential because several trust instruments lacked clarity regarding the tenure or permanency of trustees, leading to extensive litigation before the Charity Commissioner and courts. Such disputes often delayed trust operations and negatively impacted beneficiaries.

To prevent concentration of power, the Bill mandates that perpetual trustees, who are appointed for life, cannot exceed 25 per cent of a trust's total Board strength. Additionally, if a trust deed does not specify a trustee's term, the trustee will be automatically categorised as a tenure trustee, typically with a term of up to five years. This provision is expected to streamline board management and encourage periodic review of trustee performance.

The Bill also proposes an important amendment to Section 18(6), requiring that any application for registration of a trust be accompanied by documents proving ownership or interest in immovable property claimed as trust property. The government believes this will help prevent fraudulent claims during registration and protect genuine trust assets from misuse. Further strengthening regulatory enforcement, the Bill recommends increasing penalties for violations such as unauthorised sale or leasing of trust-owned immovable property.

Bomb threat sparks panic at three places in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Tension escalated in Rajasthan on Monday after fresh bomb threats were emailed to the Kota Collectorate, a prominent coaching institute in Kota, and the Rajasthan High Court in Jaipur. The alerts triggered an immediate response from police and security agencies, and intensive search operations are currently underway at all key locations. According to officials, the threat email sent to the Kota Collector's official address warned: The Kota Collectorate and Shikhar Coaching Centre in Jawahar Nagar will be blown up with RDX bombs.

Following the message, authorities swiftly evacuated the premises. Police teams, bomb detection and disposal squads, dog squads, and Army personnel were deployed to secure the areas and conduct thorough inspections.

Kota Collector Piyush Samaria confirmed the threat message was received at around 7.20 a.m. The email also claimed responsibility and stated the sender was allegedly based in Kerala.

So far, no explosives or suspicious items have been recovered from any of the threatened locations, suggesting a possible coordinated hoax aimed at spreading fear, said officials.

Security across government buildings and public institutions has been tightened, and cyber teams are working to trace the origin of the emails.

Authorities have urged the public to remain alert but avoid panic as the investigation continues.

Fishermen near Ennore allege Chennai Peripheral Ring Road construction has obstructed river flow, endangering livelihoods

Ennore fishermen protest peripheral ring road works

CHENNAI

As the State Highways Department accelerates construction of the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (CPRR) connecting Mahabalipuram to Ennore Port, fishermen in the Ennore region have raised alarm over what they describe as severe disruptions to the Kosasthalaiyar River. They claim that large-scale dumping of earth and construction debris for bridge works has obstructed the natural flow of the river, posing risks to both their livelihood and safety.

Communities from Kattukuppam, Mugathuvarakuppam and Sivan Padai Kuppam rely heavily on a crucial fishing zone known as Velamaram Paadu. The bridge for the CPRR project has been built right across this stretch. Although bridge construction is reportedly complete, fishers say the temporary earthen bunds and debris placed inside the river during the project remain unremoved, narrowing the river and altering water flow patterns.

K. Murugeshan, a fisherman from Kattukuppam, said dumping began in January despite strong opposition from the local community. The Highways Department dumped huge quantities of earth into the river even as we opposed it. Our sustained protests halted the dumping for two months, but the material already dumped has narrowed the river and changed the flow pattern, he said.

In a separate petition, fisherman-activist Retnakumar warned that the constricted river mouth has sharply increased current speeds, making it hazardous for fishermen navigating traditional boats. The increased current has already caused several mishaps involving fishing vessels. This is a direct threat to fishermen's lives, he said.

Activists have further accused the Highways Department of violating conditions imposed by the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA). Clearance guidelines explicitly state that the CPRR project should not obstruct natural water flow, affect fishing activities or damage the local ecosystem.

Suspended TMC MLA likely to be shifted to new seat

KOLKATA

Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir is likely to have his seat changed in the West Bengal Assembly after the Trinamool Congress suspended him from the party, a senior party official said on Monday. He was suspended following his controversial decision to go ahead with laying the foundation stone for a 'Babri Masjid-style' mosque in Murshidabad.

TMC Chief Whip in the state Assembly, Nirmal Ghosh, said the party was keeping an eye on the matter and it would be decided soon.

We are keeping an eye on the matter. A decision will be made on the seating arrangements of the suspended MLAs, including Kabir, in the Assembly in the next few days, he said.

Gujarat Government inaugurates new staff housing block

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Monday reinforced its push for inclusive urban development with the inauguration of newly-built government staff housing in Navrangpura. The project, comprising 44 Class-C quarters constructed by the Roads and Buildings Department, was launched in the presence of Minister of State for Urban Development Darshana Vaghela.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vaghela said the government is committed to ensuring that employees have access to safe, dignified and secure housing. She emphasised that providing quality accommodation is not just an administrative responsibility but a priority linked to the welfare of employees' families.

Vaghela also highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of housing for all is being realised through various state and central schemes.

She pointed out that multiple housing projects recently inaugurated in Ahmedabad by Union Home Minister Amit Shah have helped fulfil the long-pending housing needs of low-income families, giving them a stable foundation for a better future.

The newly-inaugurated Navrangpura staff housing complex has been equipped with essential facilities, safety measures and basic amenities aimed at improving the living standards of government employees. At the event, housing allotment orders were formally distributed to eligible beneficiaries. MLA Amit Shah, R&B Department Executive Engineer Riya Modi, municipal corporators and other senior officials were present during the ceremony, which marked another step in the state's ongoing efforts to expand affordable housing infrastructure across urban Gujarat. Gujarat's housing infrastructure has expanded rapidly over the past decade, driven by a push for affordable, resilient, and well-planned urban development.

The state has focussed on providing quality housing for both low-income citizens and government employees through schemes like PMAY, PPP-based projects, and state-supported rental options.

AATMANIRBHAR DEFENCE GROWTH

Defence Minister reaffirms push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in his Armed Forces Day address, reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector, stating that India is witnessing a decisive shift from being an import-dependent nation to becoming a global defence manufacturing power. He said there was a time when India lacked the systems and capabilities to produce its own military equipment, but the last decade has seen a historic transformation in both output and capacity.

According to Singh, India's defence production value has surged by 174 per cent — from ₹46,000 crore in 2014–15 to a record ₹1.51 lakh crore in 2024–25. Defence exports have also seen exponential growth, rising from just ₹686 crore in 2013–14 to ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25. India now exports weapons, platforms and defence systems to more than 90 countries, signalling the emergence of a robust and globally competitive industry.

Officials noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently positioned defence self-reliance as integral to India's vision of becoming a secure, confident and developed nation by 2047. Citing successful missions like Operation Sindoor, PM Modi has highlighted that combat-proven indigenous platforms strengthen national deterrence and enhance India's credibility as a dependable defence supplier.

A major factor behind this transformation, Singh said, is the government's policy of opening the defence sector to private players, thereby expanding the industrial ecosystem and creating competition-driven innovation. The preference for India-made hardware in procurement policies has further catalysed investment and technological advancement across the public and private sectors.

Strong economic growth has also enabled a sharp increase in military spending. The defence budget has nearly tripled from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013–14 to ₹6.81 lakh crore for 2025–26. Notably, 75 per cent of the capital procurement budget in recent years has been earmarked for domestic industry, providing predictable long-term demand and encouraging companies to invest in R&D, manufacturing capacity and strategic partnerships.

High Court stays CAT order on IAS officer's allotment to Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Monday stayed the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) allotting IAS officer Amrapali Kata to the Telangana cadre. The stay was granted on a petition by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), challenging the CAT order. The court directed the IAS officer's counsel to file the counter and adjourned the hearing for six weeks.

In June 2025, the Hyderabad branch of CAT allowed the petition of the 2010-batch IAS officer to direct the authorities to allot her to the Telangana cadre. The CAT pulled up the government for adopting a selective approach in applying the Pratyush Sinha Committee guidelines, describing the inconsistency as discriminatory.

Kata, currently serving as the Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, had approached the tribunal after the Union government rejected her request to be allotted to the Telangana cadre last year.

The CAT noted that while the guidelines framed by the Pratyush Sinha Committee were being strictly applied in some cases, they were relaxed arbitrarily for others without valid justification. Holding that such selective implementation amounts to discrimination, it found merit in Kata's arguments.

Observing that the authorities failed to provide a rationale for denying her request while accommodating others, the tribunal allowed her plea and directed the government to take appropriate steps for her cadre transfer to Telangana.

Kata was one of the four IAS officers who were directed by DoPT in October last year to join duties in Andhra Pradesh. Ronald Rose, Vani Prasad, Kata, and Karuna Vakati had to join the duties as the High Court had declined to pass any orders. The CAT, while hearing the petitions challenging the DoPT order, had also asked the officers to join duties as directed by the DoPT.

QUICK READ

San Francisco Social Worker Fatally Stabbed at Hospital

San Francisco

A social worker at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, 51-year-old Alberto Rangel, died after being stabbed by a patient in the hospital's HIV/AIDS clinic. The suspect, 34-year-old Wilfredo Tortolero Arriechi, allegedly used a kitchen knife and was restrained by a deputy. Rangel, described as compassionate and dedicated, was rushed into surgery but did not survive. Colleagues held a candlelight vigil, calling his death a tragedy. Hospital officials said safety is now a top priority, adding more security officers, restricting access, and installing weapon-screening systems. Staff had previously raised concerns about clinic security.

Bhagavad Gita Celebrated Through Dance in Canada

Ottawa

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa hosted a musical dance ballet, "Uttar ~ Answer," celebrating the Bhagavad Gita during the International Gita Mahotsav. Held at Carleton University's Kailash Mital Theatre, the performance brought Krishna and Arjun's timeless dialogue to life through expressive movement and rhythm. Indian High Commissioner Dinesh K. Patnaik highlighted the Gita as a living cultural heritage, inspiring harmony and responsibility. Similar events were held in Toronto, featuring bhajans, stage plays, and spiritual talks. The festival honors the Gita's teachings of duty, righteousness, and knowledge, keeping India's spiritual philosophy alive across the globe.

Six Terrorists Killed In Pakistan Security Operation

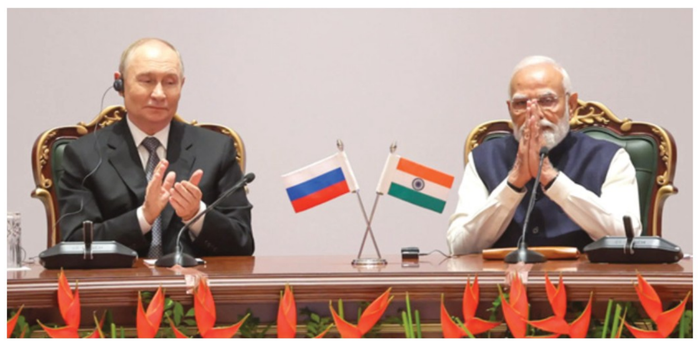
Peshawar

At least six terrorists and one security personnel were killed Monday in an operation in Mohmand district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said. The area, near the Afghan border, is known for militant activity. Police targeted terrorists reportedly planning attacks in Soran Darra. Several militants were injured, authorities added. The operation aimed to strengthen regional security and prevent future attacks. Identities of the terrorists and details of the injured remain under investigation.

India Will Buy Fuel Where Profitable: Russia

Following Putin's India visit, he and Modi held extensive talks on politics, security, trade, economics, and cultural cooperation

MOSCOW



India will continue purchasing energy resources wherever it finds them economically advantageous, Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary to Russian President Vladimir Putin, reaffirmed on Monday. Speaking in Moscow, Peskov called Putin's recent state visit to India "very successful" and said New Delhi's policy reflects its sovereign right to protect national economic interests.

The statement follows Putin's two-day visit to India last week, during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi for extensive talks at Hyderabad House as part of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. The leaders discussed all aspects of bilateral relations, including politics, security, trade, economics, and cultural cooperation.

Putin emphasized that Russia remains a reliable energy supplier and will ensure "uninterrupted fuel supplies" for India's growing economy. He highlighted the growing use of national currencies in bilateral trade, noting that 96 per cent of transactions now involve the Russian ruble or Indian rupee. Large joint projects are increasingly financed in rubles, reflecting deepening financial and energy cooperation.

Both leaders witnessed the signing of multiple agreements, including Memorandums of Understanding on trade and commerce, maritime cooperation, migration and mobility, health and food safety, fertilizers, academic exchanges, media cooperation, and people-to-people ties. Putin noted that these steps strengthen the "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" and support sustainable, long-term cooperation.

Peskov underlined that India's energy policy is guided by economic considerations and that Russia expects New Delhi to continue sourcing fuel where it is beneficial. The statement signals continuity in India-Russia energy relations and reassures Moscow of its role as a key partner in meeting India's growing energy demands.

Macron Warns China on Trade Imbalance Tariffs

PARIS

Macron criticized China's huge trade surplus, warning Europe might impose strong measures, including tariffs, if Beijing continues minimal imports from Europe, harming its own clients

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned China that the European Union may impose tariffs if Beijing fails to address its growing trade surplus with Europe. Macron made the remarks after returning from a three-day state visit to China, where he sought increased investment and aimed to recalibrate relations with Beijing. Macron said China's massive trade surplus is unsustainable, noting that Beijing is "killing their own clients" by importing very little from Europe. He added that if China does not respond, Europe may be forced to adopt strong measures, including tariffs similar to the approach taken by the United States. France's goods trade deficit with China reached around €47 billion ($54.7 billion) last year, while China's trade surplus with the EU rose to nearly $143 billion in the first half of 2025, setting a six-month record. Tensions between France and China escalated last year after the EU imposed tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, prompting Beijing to retaliate by restricting French cognac exports.

Macron criticized the US approach to China, saying it had worsened Europe's position by diverting Chinese goods toward the EU market. "We're stuck between the two; it's a question of life or death for European industry," he said, adding that not all EU members, including Germany, share France's stance.

The French President also emphasized Europe's need for competitiveness and highlighted the role of the European Central Bank in supporting growth and jobs, warning that its continued government bond sales could raise long-term interest rates. Macron concluded that Europe must remain a zone of monetary stability and a credible destination for investment while protecting its industrial base.

Iran Vows to Continue Peaceful Nuclear Programme

TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday reaffirmed Tehran's determination to continue its "peaceful" nuclear energy programme, following attacks that damaged but did not destroy its nuclear technology. Speaking to Japan's Kyodo News, Araghchi emphasized that Iran, like Japan, has the right as a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) member to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Araghchi described the June airstrikes by the United States and Israel as a major violation of international law, noting that the targeted Iranian nuclear sites were under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He expressed concern over the safety of the damaged facilities and highlighted Iran's interest in learning from Japan's experience in managing atomic disasters to enhance protection and safety measures.

On the topic of resuming nuclear talks with the United States, Araghchi stated that progress depends on Washington's approach. "If they are prepared for a fair and mutually beneficial negotiation, we are ready too," he said, noting past experiences with the US have not been positive.

Japan protested nearly 100 Chinese aircraft operations during December exercises, summoning Ambassador Wu to prevent escalation

Japan Denies Radar Lock Claims By China

TOKYO

Japan on Monday rejected China's claim that its Self-Defence Forces (SDF) fighter jets interfered with Chinese naval training, saying Japanese aircraft maintained a safe distance during operations off Okinawa. Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara stressed the importance of communication between the two countries while reiterating Japan's commitment to air and maritime surveillance.

The dispute follows Chinese reports that its J-15 fighter jets from the carrier Liaoning had radar locks on Japanese F-15 aircraft on December 6 over international waters southeast of Okinawa. Japanese authorities called such radar locks "dangerous acts beyond what was necessary for safe flight" and vowed to monitor Chinese military activities closely.

The Japanese Defence Ministry noted that during exercises on December 6-7, Chinese fighters, helicopters, and the Liaoning conducted nearly 100 takeoffs and landings, sparking concerns about potential escalation. In response, Japan's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi summoned Chinese Ambassador Wu Jianghao, protesting the actions and demanding they not be repeated.

China, however, dismissed Tokyo's remarks as "irresponsible hype" and "political manipulation." Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the exercises were in line with international law and professional standards, urging Japan to stop interfering and refrain from further provocations.

The tensions follow earlier remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in November, suggesting Japan could respond if Taiwan faced an attack from China, a statement Beijing views as provocative. Both countries continue to emphasize the need for careful communication while keeping a close watch on military activities in the Pacific region.

South Korea Eyes Balanced Growth beyond Capital

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday stressed that balanced regional development is vital for the nation's sustainable growth. Speaking at a policy briefing, he called for tailored strategies to create new growth engines nationwide, warning that over-reliance on the Seoul metropolitan area risks undermining national potential.

Lee outlined plans for five regional hubs — Seoul metropolitan, southeast, northeast, central, and western regions — and three self-governing provinces: Jeju, Gangwon, and North Jeolla, aiming to distribute economic opportunities more evenly. He urged relocating government agencies outside Seoul, developing an administrative capital, and integrating South Chungcheong Province with Daejeon to strengthen local governance, addressing housing issues and political conflicts that hinder balanced development.

China Calls India, Russia Key Global South Members

BEIJING

China has described India, Russia, and itself as "emerging economies" and "important members of the Global South," emphasizing that strong ties among the three nations benefit not only their own interests but also regional and global peace, security, stability, and prosperity. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks at a press conference in Beijing on Monday.

Guo highlighted China's readiness to work with Russia and India to strengthen bilateral relations. On India-China ties specifically, he stressed that Beijing seeks a strategic and long-term approach, promoting sustained, healthy, and stable development to benefit both countries and contribute to peace in Asia and beyond.

The comments came shortly after Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day state visit to New Delhi from December 4-5. During the visit, Putin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the India-Russia Strategic Partnership, which marks 25 years this year. The leaders held summit talks covering defence, economic cooperation, energy ties, and regional security. The visit also included the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, where both nations issued a joint statement outlining future priorities. President Droupadi Murmu hosted President Putin at Rashtrapati Bhavan, describing India-Russia relations as "steadfast for many years" and expressing confidence that the partnership would continue to strengthen in the future. China's remarks underline the importance Beijing places on trilateral cooperation among the emerging economies of Asia and Russia, signaling its commitment to fostering stable international relations while supporting economic and strategic collaboration within the Global South.

OVER 2,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES DEPORTED IN DAY

KABUL

More than 2,000 Afghan refugees were forcibly repatriated from Iran and Pakistan in a single day, Taliban officials said on Monday. Deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat reported on X that 623 families, totaling 2,349 people, returned to Afghanistan on Sunday through major border crossings including Torkham in Nangarhar, Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, and Islam Qala in Herat.

According to Fitrat, 327 families were escorted to their home areas, while 512 received humanitarian assistance. Additionally, 448 SIM cards were distributed to returning refugees. The previous day, 3,134 Afghan refugees were also repatriated from Iran and Pakistan.

Reports highlight growing tensions for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, where many face harassment, arbitrary arrests, and exploitation by police and unidentified men in plain clothes. Refugees say they live in constant fear, lacking basic rights and protection. Several recounted incidents where migrants were detained and forced to pay large sums for release, unsure whether their captors were official authorities or collaborating criminals.

Human rights and refugee support groups have remained largely silent as Afghan refugees face worsening conditions. Over recent months, Pakistani authorities have intensified operations targeting undocumented migrants, contributing to an atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty.

The Taliban government has called attention to these forced repatriations, emphasizing the need for humanitarian assistance and proper support for returning families. The situation underscores the urgent need for stronger international attention to ensure the safety, rights, and dignity of Afghan refugees in the region.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

8		9		6		5		4
	3		5		4		7	
5		4		1			8	
	8		2		6		4	
9		6	4		8	3		1
2			1			7		8
		5		2	3	8		7
3		8	7		1			
	9		8			1		6

2	4	3	7	6	9	5	1	8
8	7	6	4	5	1	3	9	2
1	5	9	3	8	2	7	6	4
4	1	2	6	3	7	8	5	9
5	6	7	2	9	8	1	4	3
3	9	8	5	1	4	2	7	6
6	8	5	9	7	3	4	2	1
9	2	1	8	4	5	6	3	7
7	3	4	1	2	6	9	8	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SWIFT HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Sri Lanka Thanks India for Cyclone Relief Support

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan MP Namal Rajapaksa on Monday expressed gratitude to India for its ongoing relief efforts under Operation Sagar Bandhu following Cyclone Ditwah. He met Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, acknowledging India's swift humanitarian response.

Rajapaksa shared on X, "Called on the Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha to express our heartfelt thanks for India's swift support during the Sri Lanka floods. India has consistently been our first responder in difficult times. Grateful to the Government and people of India."

The Indian High Commission confirmed that India will continue its support to help Sri Lanka rebuild and recover. Earlier on Sunday, India sent around 1,000 tonnes of aid, including food and clothes, with 300 tonnes reaching Colombo via three Indian Naval ships. The relief materials were handed over to Sri Lanka's Minister for Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Cooperative Development, Wasantha Samarasinghe.

In addition to delivering aid, Indian Army Engineers joined Sri Lankan engineers and the Road Development Authority to remove a damaged bridge on the Paranthan–Karachchi–Mullaitivu (A35) road in Kilinochchi district. This joint effort aims to restore vital connectivity in cyclone-affected regions.

Operation Sagar Bandhu, launched by India on November 28, provides search and rescue as well as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) support in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, which caused severe flooding, landslides, and widespread damage.

High Commissioner Jha also met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath and corporate leaders associated with the 'Rebuilding Sri Lanka Fund' to discuss ongoing assistance and long-term rehabilitation. India's multifaceted support underscores its commitment to stand with Sri Lanka in relief, recovery, and reconstruction during this challenging period.

QUICK READ

PSU Banks Write Off Loans Worth Huge Sum

New Delhi

Public sector banks have written off loans totaling Rs 6.15 lakh crore over the past five and a half years, Parliament was told on Monday. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said that according to RBI data, PSBs cleared Rs 6,15,647 crore in bad loans up to September 30, 2025. The government has not injected fresh capital into these banks since 2022-23. Despite this, PSBs have improved their finances, become profitable, and strengthened capital. Experts say this shows better management and recovery efforts, helping banks remain stable in a challenging economic period.

DEE Development Engineers Secures Big Orders

New Delhi

DEE Development Engineers Ltd (DDEL) reported securing orders worth Rs 121.42 crore in November, the company said on Monday. During the month, it executed Rs 106.49 crore in orders, showing focus on timely delivery for both domestic and international projects. For the current financial year 2025-26, DDEL has received Rs 768.93 crore in orders and completed Rs 665.02 crore, reflecting steady project progress. The company's continued engagement with major global clients in energy, power, and industrial sectors highlights strong demand and reliability. Analysts say this pace indicates healthy growth and operational efficiency.

Government Strategy Drives Stronger Economic Growth

Sitharaman outlined tax exemptions, GST cuts, business reforms, and employment, infrastructure, and credit schemes boosting urban and rural consumption

NEW DELHI

The Indian government's multi-pronged approach is boosting consumption and driving robust economic growth, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament on Monday. The strategy combines demand-supporting measures, income-enhancing policies, and structural reforms, she explained, helping GDP growth and household incomes across the country.

Sitharaman highlighted several key policy measures. These include a new income tax exemption for annual earnings up to Rs 12 lakh, recent GST rate cuts, improved

ease of doing business, employment and skilling programs, infrastructure development, and expanded access to credit through schemes like MUDRA and PMSVANidhi. Together, these initiatives aim to strengthen both urban and rural consumption.

Urban areas are benefiting from livelihood programs, tax reliefs, and wider digital payment access. Rural regions, meanwhile, are supported through flagship programs such as PM-KISAN, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, PM Awas Yojana (Gramin), agricultural productivity missions, and Self Help Group-based livelihood initiatives. These efforts are helping to increase incomes and broaden consumption across the country.

The Finance Minister emphasized that stronger consumption demand not only supports household incomes but also encourages private investment and reinforces overall economic growth. Data from the National Statistics Office shows that the share of Private Final Consumption Expenditure in GDP rose from 62.2 per cent in Q2 of 2024-25 to 62.5 per cent in Q2 of 2025-26. Growth in constant price terms also improved from 6.4 per cent to 7.9 per cent.

GDP at constant prices is estimated to have grown 8.2 per cent in Q2 of 2025-26, compared with 5.6 per cent in the same period last year and 7.8 per cent in Q1 of 2025-26, reflecting an accelerating growth momentum, Sitharaman noted.

India's Agriculture Thrives with New Farming Boost

NEW DELHI

India's agriculture sector has witnessed remarkable growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Monday. Speaking at the Agribusiness Summit 2025, Chouhan highlighted a 44 per cent rise in sugarcane production since 2014, attributing the success to modern farming methods and government initiatives.

The minister emphasized supporting small farmers, especially those with less than one hectare of land, through integrated farming models. He encouraged diversification into fish and cattle farming, value addition of crops, and careful use of fertilizers to protect the soil for future generations. Bio-input regulations have been tightened, reducing the number of approved producers from 30,000 to 8,000, ensuring quality and safety.

Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog noted the need to improve both production and productivity. Comparing India with China, he said Chinese farmers act as innovators and careful land managers, achieving higher yields with precise farming techniques. India could adopt similar strategies to improve output while minimizing negative effects of fertilizer use.

RG Agarwal, PHDCCI agribusiness committee chair, said farmers have always served the nation, and now it is time to support them with

The minister promoted supporting small farmers via integrated farming, diversification into fish and cattle, crop value addition, prudent fertilizer use, and stricter bio-input regulations ensuring quality and safety

better technology, knowledge, and resources to increase income and efficiency.

Rahul Dhanuka, managing director of Dhanuka Agritech, highlighted India's low usage of agricultural medicines compared to global standards, though misuse persists in some regions.

The summit focused on "Tripling Agricultural GDP Using New Technology and Quality Inputs," bringing together policymakers, farmers, and industry leaders to explore innovative solutions. Experts emphasized that modern tools, smart farming, and proper support can transform agriculture, making it more productive, sustainable, and profitable for Indian farmers.

India Targets Big Boost in Oilseed Output by 2031

NEW DELHI

The government has set an ambitious goal to raise India's oilseed production to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030–31, aiming to strengthen the country's self-reliance in edible oils.

Despite being one of the world's largest producers of oilseeds, India still depends heavily on imports, meeting only 44 per cent of its domestic edible oil demand through local production. While import dependence has declined from 63.2 per cent in 2015–16 to 56.25 per cent in 2023–24, rising consumption continues to widen the gap.

A NITI Aayog report from August 2024 highlighted India's global leadership in producing rice bran oil, castor seed, safflower, sesame, and niger. Yet, the government believes that achieving Atmanirbharta in edible oils requires major changes in cultivation practices, seed quality, and processing capacity. To address this, the National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO) was launched to strengthen the oilseed ecosystem and boost domestic production.

Intermediaries submit recommendations via secure APIs or files; PaRRVA validates them, calculates 50 indicators, and provides investor-accessible reports

SEBI Launches PaRRVA to Boost Market Transparency

NEW DELHI

India's Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) has launched a new platform called PaRRVA — the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency — aimed at giving investors clear, trustworthy information about the performance of financial intermediaries. SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the initiative will help both investors and regulated entities by offering credible, independently verified performance data.

PaRRVA is being introduced as a pilot and is described as the first global system designed to verify risk-return metrics for investment advisors, research analysts, and trading members. Pandey said transparency is the foundation of healthy markets, and the new platform strengthens SEBI's commitment to fairness and order in India's financial system. According to him, PaRRVA will bring greater clarity to performance claims

and help investors make more confident decisions.

National Stock Exchange (NSE) MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan called the initiative an important step toward improving standardisation and trust. NSE is supporting the effort by hosting the PaRRVA Data Centre, which uses verified market data to check the accuracy of risk and return numbers.

Intermediaries can upload their recommendations through secure APIs or files, after which PaRRVA validates them and produces detailed performance metrics. Nearly 50 different indicators are calculated using transaction data from exchanges and clearing corporations. These reports can be accessed by investors either through a QR code or via the official PaRRVA website.

The platform also helps stop misleading claims by preventing selective presentation of returns and ensuring all data is backed by proper disclosures. Its secure system, combined with T+1 verification for portfolios and end-of-day checks for intraday strategies, aims to offer both speed and accuracy.

Small Firms Drive Big MSME Credit Growth

NEW DELHI

India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) saw their credit exposure rise 17.8% to Rs 43.3 lakh crore by September, mainly driven by small firms, a CRIF High Mark report said. Active loans grew 5.7% year-on-year to 192.9 lakh, while portfolio quality improved with low risk levels. Small businesses now hold 39.5% of exposure, medium firms 23.1%, and micro units still dominate loan numbers at 86.4%. PSU banks lead micro lending, private banks back small and medium firms, while NBFCs expand. Maharashtra tops with Rs 7 lakh crore in loans.

TRAI Extends Deadline for Interconnection Feedback

NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has extended the deadlines for submitting comments and counter-comments on its latest consultation paper reviewing interconnection regulations, the Ministry of Communications announced on Monday.

The consultation paper, released on November 10, initially set December 8 as the last date for comments and December 22 for counter-comments. Following multiple requests from industry bodies and stakeholders for more time to study the proposals, TRAI has now extended the deadline for written comments to December 15 and for counter-comments to December 29.

"The extension was granted in response to requests from industry associations and stakeholders seeking more time to prepare their submissions," the ministry said. Stakeholders are invited to submit their inputs electronically to Sameer Gupta, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing-I). The consultation aims to update interconnection regulations to match the evolving telecom technologies and market needs.

Meanwhile, TRAI has continued its crackdown on spam and fraud in the telecom sector. Over the past year, the regulator disconnected more than 21 lakh mobile numbers and blacklisted around one lakh entities based on citizen complaints. TRAI has urged people to continue reporting spam through the TRAI DND App to prevent misuse at the source, cautioning that simply blocking unwanted numbers on personal phones is not enough.

These steps reflect TRAI's ongoing efforts to protect consumers while ensuring that India's telecom sector keeps pace with technological and market developments.

ED Cracks Down On Crypto Frauds Nationwide

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken strong action against cryptocurrency frauds, attaching, seizing, and freezing proceeds of crime worth Rs 4,189.89 crore, arresting 29 people, and filing 22 prosecution complaints, Parliament was informed on Monday. One accused has also been declared a fugitive economic offender.

Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said that virtual digital assets (VDAs) are now covered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), making virtual asset service providers (VASPs) reporting entities. They are required to submit transaction reports to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND), which are analyzed and shared with law enforcement agencies for further action.

Chaudhary added that laws like the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act and the Black Money Act apply to VDAs, ensuring stricter oversight. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has also detected multiple cases of tax evasion linked to cryptocurrencies. During recent search and seizure operations, undisclosed income from VDA transactions worth Rs 888.82 crore was identified. Under the CBDT's NUDGE campaign, over 44,000 taxpayers received notices for failing to report VDA transactions in their income tax returns.

Auto Sales Hold Steady as Nov Demand Improves

NEW DELHI

India's auto retail industry posted steady growth in November, with overall sales rising 2.14 per cent year-on-year to 33.01 lakh units, according to new figures from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). The industry managed to maintain momentum even after the festive season, helped by price cuts following the GST 2.0 rollout that continued to draw buyers to showrooms.

Passenger vehicles performed well, supported by better availability of popular models and rising demand for compact SUVs. Inventory levels for this segment eased to 44–46 days, compared with 53–55 days in October, signalling improving customer interest. Maruti Suzuki held its leading position with a

39.4 per cent market share, followed by Mahindra at 13.7 per cent and Tata Motors at 13.2 per cent.

However, the two-wheeler segment struggled, with monthly sales dropping 19.16 per cent to 25.46 lakh units. Year-on-year, the decline was 3.10 per cent. FADA President C. S. Vigneshwar said the fall must be seen in context, as festive shopping in October pulled demand forward. He added that delayed crop payments and uneven supply of in-demand models also hurt sales, though customer visits remained strong due to positive sentiment from GST changes and the ongoing marriage season.

Three-wheelers continued to shine, rising 31.58 per cent month-on-month to 1.33 lakh units. The segment also grew 23.67 per cent year-on-year, fuelled largely by higher demand for e-rickshaws and e-carts. Commercial vehicle sales showed a mixed trend, with light and medium categories weakening while heavy commercial vehicles rose 3.28 per cent to 28,659 units.

Analysts said November's overall performance showed resilience, as solid passenger vehicle and three-wheeler sales helped balance weakness in two-wheelers and parts of the commercial vehicle segment.

INDIGO STOCK PLUNGE

IndiGo's Market Value Crashes amid Flight Turmoil

MUMBAI

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, suffered a sharp fall in market value on Monday as the airline continued to face one of the worst operational breakdowns in India's aviation sector. The company's stock plunged 10 per cent to ₹4,842 — its steepest drop since February 2022 — marking its seventh straight day of losses. In just six trading sessions, the stock has slipped 16.4 per cent, erasing nearly ₹37,000 crore in market capitalisation.

The sell-off grew more intense as investors reacted to the airline's widespread cancellations and delays linked to its shift to new flight duty time limitation norms. Analysts say the ongoing chaos is hurting hopes of an earnings rebound that many expected in the coming quarter. Brokerage Investec kept its 'Sell' rating on InterGlobe Aviation, cutting expectations for a recovery after a weak first half of FY26 and setting a price target of ₹4,040.

The crisis deepened when IndiGo struggled to meet the regulator's deadline for adopting the revised duty-time rules. The carrier, along with another airline, requested more time on December 7 due to operational strain at several major airports. Although the regulator granted a limited extension until 6 p.m. on December 8, it firmly stated that no further relief would be given.

IndiGo said its operations are gradually improving and that its schedule should stabilise by December 10. On Sunday, it operated more than 1,650 flights, an increase from 1,500 the previous day, and its on-time performance rose to 75 per cent from 30 per cent. The airline also said refunds and baggage services are working at full capacity.

To manage the crisis, IndiGo has set up a high-level Crisis Management Group made up of Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta, board members Gregg Saretsky, Mike Whitaker and Amitabh Kant, and CEO Pieter Elbers. Their task is to restore normal operations and address the spike in delays and cancellations.

Presidential and Prime Ministerial Aircraft of the World's Most Powerful Nations

The aircraft used by heads of state and government serve as powerful symbols of national prestige, technological capability, and diplomatic reach. These flying command centers are far more than luxury transportation, they represent mobile offices, secure communication hubs, and instruments of soft power projection. For the leaders of the world's most influential nations, their official aircraft embody both practical necessity and national identity. This article examines the presidential and prime ministerial planes of five of the most powerful countries: the United States, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and France.

United States: Air Force One

The term Air Force One technically refers to any United States Air Force aircraft carrying the President, but it has become synonymous with the two modified Boeing 747-200B aircraft that serve as the primary presidential transports. These iconic blue and white planes, with tail numbers 28000 and 29000, have been in service since 1990 and represent perhaps the most recognizable government aircraft in the world.

The current Air Force One fleet operates as far more than simple transportation. Each aircraft functions as a flying White House, equipped with sophisticated communication systems that allow the President to conduct government business and maintain command authority anywhere in the world. The planes feature extensive electronic countermeasures to protect against missile attacks, hardened electronics to withstand electromagnetic pulses, and the ability to refuel in mid-air, giving them virtually unlimited range.

The interior of Air Force One spans 4,000 square feet across three levels, configured to accommodate the President, senior advisors, Secret Service agents, traveling staff, and members of the press corps. The presidential suite includes a private office, conference room, and sleeping quarters. The aircraft also contains a medical suite staffed by a doctor and equipped to perform emergency surgery if necessary. Secure communication systems enable encrypted satellite phone calls and video conferencing, ensuring the President can respond to any crisis while airborne.

The distinctive livery—a sophisticated powder blue and white color scheme with United States of America emblazoned along the fuselage—was designed during the Kennedy administration and has remained largely unchanged, becoming an enduring symbol of American power. However, the aging 747-200B fleet is scheduled for replacement. The U.S.

Air Force has ordered two modified Boeing 747-8 aircraft to serve as the next generation of Air Force One, expected to enter service later this decade. These new planes will feature enhanced security systems, improved fuel efficiency, and updated technology while maintaining the visual elements that make Air Force One instantly recognizable worldwide.

China: Air China Boeing 747-8

China's President travels aboard specially configured Air China aircraft, with the primary plane being a Boeing 747-8, one of the newest and most advanced variants of the iconic jumbo jet. The Chinese leadership has historically maintained a more understated approach to presidential aviation compared to Western counterparts, though this has evolved as China's global influence has expanded.

The Chinese presidential aircraft carries the standard Air China livery with subtle modifications to designate its special status. Unlike Air Force One's distinctive custom paint scheme, the Chinese approach emphasizes continuity with the national carrier's commercial fleet, reflecting a different philosophy about projecting state power.

Nevertheless, the interior modifications are extensive and sophisticated.

The Boeing 747-8 used by Chinese leadership features multiple conference rooms, private quarters for the President, and advanced secure communication systems comparable to those found on Air Force One. The aircraft allows Chinese leaders to conduct sensitive diplomatic negotiations and maintain contact with Beijing during extended international trips. Given China's expanding Belt and Road Initiative and increasing diplomatic engagements across Asia, Africa, and beyond, the presidential aircraft has become an essential tool for projecting Chinese influence globally.

China has also developed domestic aircraft capabilities through the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), which has produced the C919 narrow-body jet.

While presidential transport currently relies on Boeing aircraft, China's long-term aviation strategy suggests future leaders may transition to domestically produced planes, further asserting technological independence and national pride.

Russia: The Presidential Aircraft Fleet

Russia's presidential aviation operates under a unique structure, with multiple aircraft designated for presidential use rather than a single iconic plane. The primary aircraft is an Ilyushin Il-96-300PU, a modified version of Russia's domestically produced wide-body airliner. This choice reflects Russia's emphasis on utilizing indigenous aircraft technology and maintaining independence from Western manufacturers.

The Il-96-300PU entered service in the mid-1990s and represents a significant upgrade from previous Soviet-era presidential aircraft. The plane features four powerful jet engines, giving it impressive range and reliability for transcontinental flights.

Extensive modifications transform the standard airliner into a flying command center suitable for the Russian President. The interior includes a presidential office and bedroom, conference facilities, and secure communication equipment that maintains encrypted connections with Moscow.

The Russian presidential fleet also includes several other aircraft types, including additional Il-96 variants and smaller business jets for shorter trips or visits to airports that cannot accommodate larger aircraft. This flexible approach allows Russian leadership to adapt transportation to mission requirements while maintaining domestic manufacturing support.

Security features on Russian presidential aircraft are highly classified, but aviation experts believe they include sophisticated electronic warfare systems, missile defense capabilities, and hardened communications equipment. The aircraft's design emphasizes self-sufficiency and the ability to operate independently of foreign infrastructure, consistent with Russia's strategic doctrine of maintaining operational autonomy.

Russia has also invested in developing the Aurus Kortezh aircraft project, intended to create an entirely Russian-made presidential transport system. This ambitious program aims to produce both ground vehicles and aircraft using exclusively domestic components, further reducing reliance on foreign technology. While still in development, this initiative underscores Russia's commitment to technological sovereignty in presidential transportation.

France: Airbus A330-200 and A340-200

France operates two primary presidential aircraft under the control of ETEC 00.060, a special flight squadron of the French Air Force. The fleet includes an Airbus A330-200 and an older Airbus A340-200, both extensively modified for presidential use. This choice emphasizes European aerospace manufacturing, as Airbus is a European consortium with significant French involvement.

The French presidential aircraft carry livery featuring the French tricolor and reflect France's status as a major diplomatic power with significant global interests, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. French presidents frequently travel to former French colonies and territories, as well as to international summits where France plays a leading role in European Union decision-making.

The primary Airbus A330-200 features luxurious accommodations befitting French aesthetic sensibilities. The interior includes a presidential apartment with bedroom and office space, multiple conference rooms for diplomatic meetings, and sections for staff, security, and journalists. The design balances functionality with elegance, incorporating French design elements and high-quality materials that reflect national cultural identity.

Secure communication systems aboard French presidential aircraft enable constant contact with Paris and allow the president to manage both domestic affairs and France's extensive international commitments. The aircraft support France's role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a nuclear power, requiring robust command and control capabilities even when leadership is traveling.

France maintains its presidential aircraft as part of a broader fleet of government planes used by various ministers and officials, creating an efficient system that shares maintenance, crew, and infrastructure costs. This integrated approach maximizes operational efficiency while ensuring appropriate transportation is available for different levels of government activity.

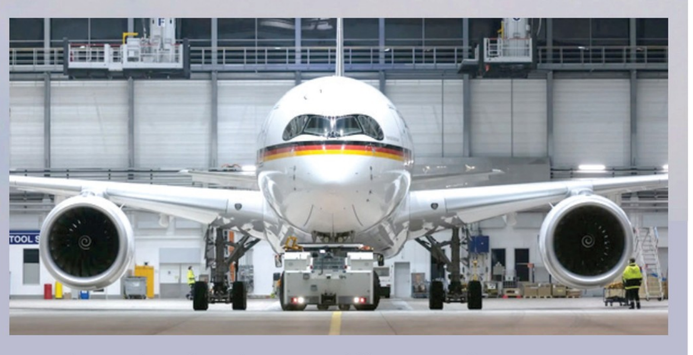
United Kingdom: Royal Air Force Voyager

The United Kingdom takes a distinctly different approach to government aviation. Rather than maintaining dedicated presidential aircraft, British Prime Ministers and members of the Royal Family travel aboard military transport aircraft that also serve operational roles. The primary plane is a Royal Air Force Airbus A330 Voyager, designated ZZ336, which functions as both a VIP transport and an aerial refueling tanker.

This dual-purpose design reflects British pragmatism and fiscal conservatism regarding government spending. The Voyager entered service in its VIP configuration in 2016, featuring a distinctive Union Jack tail design that garnered both praise and criticism. The livery modification cost approximately £900,000, with supporters arguing it enhanced Britain's global image while critics questioned the expense.

The interior of the VIP Voyager includes a private cabin for the Prime Minister or senior royals, business class seating for staff and officials, and economy seating for security personnel and journalists. While less opulent than some foreign counterparts, the aircraft provides comfortable and secure transportation for extended international trips. Crucially, the Voyager can be quickly reconfigured to resume its military refuelling role when not needed for VIP transport, maximizing the aircraft's utility and justifying its cost to taxpayers.

The British approach contrasts sharply with the dedicated presidential fleets of the United States, Russia, and China. This reflects both budgetary considerations and a cultural preference for understated governance. British Prime Ministers traditionally avoid ostentatious displays of power, and the multi-role Voyager aligns with this philosophy while still providing secure, reliable transportation for diplomatic missions and state visits. Advanced secure communication systems aboard the Voyager enable the Prime Minister to remain in constant contact with Whitehall and respond to domestic or international crises while traveling. The aircraft also features enhanced security measures, though specific details remain classified for operational security reasons.



The aircraft used by presidents and prime ministers of powerful nations reveal much about each country's priorities, values, and approach to governance. The United States maintains the most iconic and capable presidential aircraft in Air Force One, emphasizing American technological leadership and global reach. China's transition to advanced Boeing aircraft reflects its growing international presence, while plans for domestic alternatives underscore its drive toward technological independence. Russia's reliance on indigenous Ilyushin aircraft demonstrates commitment to self-sufficiency and maintaining control over critical infrastructure. The United Kingdom's multi-role approach balances capability with fiscal responsibility, avoiding dedicated vanity projects in favor of practical solutions. France's selection of European Airbus aircraft affirms its commitment to European manufacturing while providing elegant, capable transportation for its diplomatic missions.

These flying command centers serve as more than transportation—they function as mobile seats of government power, enabling leaders to maintain authority and respond to crises regardless of location. As aviation technology advances and geopolitical dynamics evolve, presidential and prime ministerial aircraft will continue adapting, remaining essential tools of modern governance and international diplomacy.

BCCI Clarifies Kohli, Rohit Were Not Forced To Play Vijay Trophy

BCCI denies nudging Kohli, Rohit; Confirms voluntary Vijay Hazare participation

MUMBAI

The BCCI has addressed long-running rumours regarding Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's participation in the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, clarifying that the board did not pressure either of the seniors to join the domestic competition. With continuous speculation about their ODI futures and prospects for the 2027 World Cup, their decision to play the domestic 50-over tournament had sparked debate about whether it was self-motivated or a directive from the board. Both players have been in exceptional form recently, with Rohit claiming the Player of the Series award against Australia and Kohli earning the same accolade versus South Africa.

Reports earlier in the year suggested that centrally contracted players would be pushed to feature in domestic tournaments, especially after the Border-Gavaskar Trophy defeat prompted the BCCI to stress domestic participation. However, according to RevSportz, a senior BCCI official dismissed claims that the board asked the duo to play Vijay Hazare. "They have decided, it's their decision," the official stated, putting speculation to rest. Kohli had already informed the Delhi and District Cricket Association of his availability nearly three weeks ago, confirmed by DDCA President Rohan Jaitley. Rohit Sharma is also expected to represent Mumbai in the competition beginning December 24. Their decision echoes an earlier move this year when both played a Ranji Trophy match before retiring from Test cricket, underscoring their commitment to staying match-ready.

Both veterans have produced impressive numbers in recent months. Kohli amassed 302 runs, including two centuries, in the South Africa series, while Rohit contributed 146 runs with two fifties. In the preceding Australia series, each delivered crucial innings despite early setbacks. Head coach Gautam Gambhir acknowledged their experience but refrained from confirming their 2027 World Cup involvement, stressing the importance of present performance and opportunities for younger players.

Kohli, Rohit central to India's 2027 WC roadmap: Ex-selector

MUMBAI

Former BCCI selector urges India to build 2027 World Cup core around seniors

A former national selector has called for Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to be firmly positioned at the heart of India's 2027 World Cup plans, emphasizing the need for stability and clarity as the team prepares for the tournament in South Africa. Both stalwarts recently returned to international cricket during India's tours of Australia and South Africa, producing impactful performances that strengthened the argument for their continued involvement in ODIs. Their combined tally of over 700 runs in the last six matches, including three centuries and five half-centuries, has reminded the cricketing circle of their value in high-pressure contests.

Despite their form, questions linger due to their age and fitness profiles, with head coach Gautam Gambhir reportedly prioritizing a present-focused approach rather than planning too far ahead. With roughly 22 months left before the ICC event, the uncertainty surrounding their long-term roles has become a topic of debate. The two veterans are now set to appear in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and the New Zealand ODI series starting January 2026, both crucial phases in determining their World Cup futures.

Former selector Devang Gandhi believes India must anchor their preparations around Kohli and Sharma, advocating for a defined pool of 20 players leading up to the mega event. Gandhi warned against repeating past mistakes—such as the unsettled No. 4 spot ahead of the 2019 World Cup and the forced inclusion of an out-of-form Suryakumar Yadav during the 2023 campaign—which left India exposed in crunch situations.

Gandhi also highlighted India's persistent middle-order instability. While Shubman Gill and KL Rahul have been reliable, others like Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, Ruturaj Gaikwad, and Yashasvi Jaiswal continue to compete for permanent roles. With additional contenders like Rishabh Pant and Washington Sundar in the mix, India must identify a stable XI and backups to avoid recurring lapses in ICC tournaments.

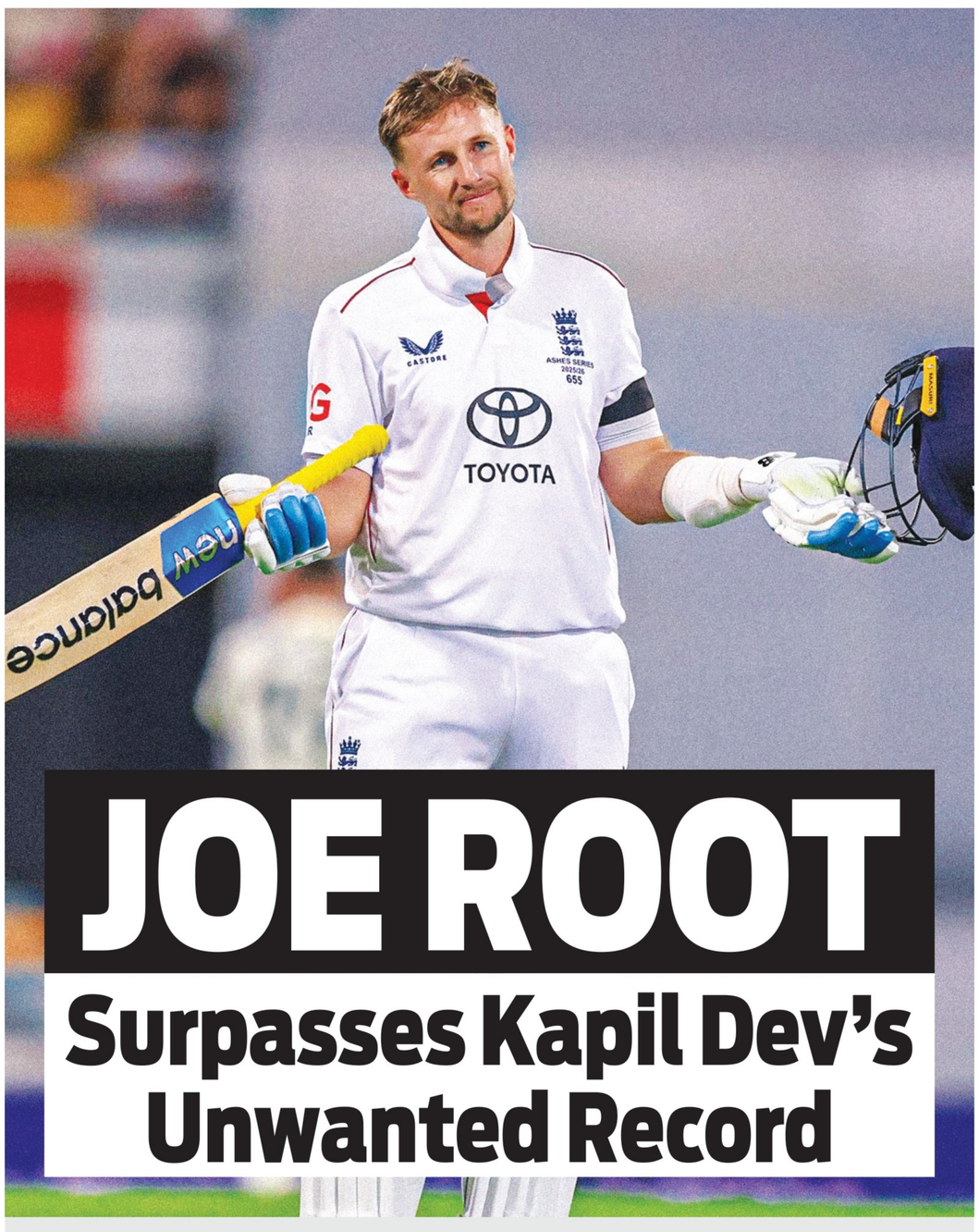
Germany Outclass India 5–1 to Reach Men's Junior WC Final

CHENNAI

Germany produced a dominant display to defeat India 5–1 in the semifinals of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup, silencing a packed Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium that had come out in full voice for the hosts. The clash between the world's top two junior teams promised drama, but the defending champions quickly took control, setting up a final against Spain.

Germany struck early, with Lukas Kossel converting a penalty stroke in the 14th minute, followed by Titus Wex's strike a minute later. India struggled to cope with Germany's pace, pressing, and precise passing. Seconds before halftime, Kossel added his second from a penalty-corner routine, giving Germany a 3–0 lead. The second half offered little respite, as Jonas von Gersum and Ben Habach extended the lead to 5–0, with India's lone goal coming from Anmol Ekka in the 50th minute.

Earlier, Spain reached their first Junior World Cup final with a 2–1 victory over Argentina, thanks to Albert Serrahima's decisive 56th-minute goal. In classification matches, Belgium defeated France 3–2, while the Netherlands, led by Casper van der Veen's hat-trick, beat New Zealand 6–3. India will face Argentina for third place on December 10.



JOE ROOT Surpasses Kapil Dev's Unwanted Record

BRISBANE

England's premier batter Joe Root has crossed an unfortunate milestone, breaking a 34-year-old record previously held by India's iconic all-rounder Kapil Dev. With England's eight-wicket loss to Australia at the Gabba, Root completed his 16th Test in Australia without a single victory, surpassing Kapil's tally of 15 winless Tests in Pakistan. The unwanted record highlights Root's long-standing struggles on Australian soil despite his stature as one of the game's finest modern batters.

He now stands alone for the most matches played in a country without a win. Kapil's own barren run in Pakistan brought 548 runs at 26.10 and 44 wickets at 40.02. Yet Root's latest performance was one of England's few positives, as he struck a superb maiden Test century in Australia.

England, however, were comprehensively outclassed. Their batting faltered in both innings through poor shot selection and technical lapses, while the bowlers lacked control, especially under the lights with the pink ball. Five dropped catches allowed Australia to post 511 and take command.

A brief revival from Ben Stokes and Will Jacks offered hope, but Michael Neser's career-best 5 for 42 ended the fightback. Steve Smith and Jake Weatherald then guided Australia home comfortably.

ICC faces turmoil as JioStar seeks exit from billion-dollar media rights deal

NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council is facing a major commercial setback just months before the 2026 T20 World Cup in India. Reliance-owned JioStar has formally informed the ICC of its intention to exit its multi-year media rights agreement, despite two years remaining in the current cycle. Reports suggest the broadcaster's decision stems from mounting financial losses, plunging global cricket's most valuable media market into uncertainty ahead of a marquee event. Following JioStar's notice, the ICC has reopened the tender process for the 2026–29 India rights, seeking close to $2.4 billion — a significant drop from the $3 billion valuation of the 2024–27 cycle, which guaranteed at least one major men's event annually. Yet even at the reduced price, major players such as Sony Pictures Networks India, Netflix, and Amazon Prime Video have shown little interest, citing high costs and the weakening economics of India's sports broadcasting sector. If no new broadcaster steps forward, JioStar will still be obligated to honour its contract through 2027. JioStar's financial strain is evident in filings showing provisions for sports-related losses doubling to ₹25,760 crore in 2024–25, much of it linked to Star India's earlier ₹12,319-crore provisioning for ICC rights. Meanwhile, the ICC posted a $474 million surplus in 2024, underscoring cricket's profitability even as broadcasters bleed. Adding to JioStar's woes is the government's ban on real-money gaming, once the sport's biggest advertising category, creating an estimated ₹7,000-crore revenue gap. With budgets tightening and major platforms hesitant, the ICC now confronts one of its most challenging negotiations in years.

Casper van der Veen Shines at Junior WC

CHENNAI

Casper van der Veen, the towering Dutch midfielder and captain, is enjoying one of his finest tournaments at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup despite collective disappointment. The 21-year-old has been among the top scorers, netting nine field goals in five matches, yet the sting of another missed semifinal weighs on him. The Netherlands' narrow 0-1 quarterfinal loss to Argentina — their third straight failure to reach the top four — was particularly tough for van der Veen, now in his third Junior World Cup.

He responded with a hat-trick, his second of the event, in a 6-3 win over New Zealand in the 5–8 classification match, with a powerful airborne strike his favourite. Hailing from Heemstede, van der Veen followed his elder brother into hockey and now cherishes making his family proud. In 2025, he debuted for the senior Dutch team in the FIH Pro League, scoring his first international goal — a milestone he hopes to build on, especially in India's electrifying atmosphere.

FC Goa Clinch Super Cup Again, Secure AFC Champions League 2 Berth

MARGAO

FC Goa scripted history at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, clinching the Super Cup title for a record third time after a dramatic 6–5 victory over East Bengal FC in a sudden-death penalty shootout. With the triumph, the Gaurs not only defended their crown — becoming the first club ever to do so — but also sealed their qualification for next season's AFC Champions League 2.

The highly anticipated final between two of India's most storied sides lived up to its billing, though goals proved elusive in regular and extra time. Both teams created moments of promise, but neither could break the deadlock across 120 minutes, setting up a tense tie-breaker to decide the champion.

The initial round of penalties ended 4–4, with both sides displaying nerves of steel under immense pressure. In sudden death, FC Goa edged ahead as Edu Bedia Tavora calmly slotted home, keeping his side alive after Udanta Singh had converted for East Bengal moments earlier. In the decisive moment, East Bengal substitute P V Vishnu fired wide, allowing the Gaurs to celebrate yet another historic achievement. Earlier, East Bengal's Ahadad had found the net, but the Kolkata giants could not maintain their composure when it mattered most.

The win marks another milestone for head coach Manolo Marquez, who continues to elevate FC Goa's stature in Indian football. His squad's composure, depth, and tactical discipline once again proved decisive in a tournament featuring top clubs from both the Indian Super League and I-League.

Only a day after the triumph, the significance of FC Goa's achievement resonated across Indian football — a successful title defence, a record third Super Cup trophy, and a coveted return to continental competition.

Højlund Brace Lifts Napoli, Spoils Spalletti Return

MILAN

Rasmus Højlund struck twice as Napoli defeated Juventus 2-1 on a dramatic night that marked Luciano Spalletti's first return to the club he guided to the Scudetto in 2023. The victory sent Napoli back to the top of Serie A, one point clear of Inter Milan and three ahead of AC Milan. The match was steeped in narrative, with Spalletti facing Napoli as an opposition coach for the first time, while Napoli manager Antonio Conte also took on his former club in a compelling tactical duel. Napoli made an electric start, breaking through within seven minutes. David Neres sliced through Juventus' right flank before sliding a precise pass to Højlund, who tapped in from close range. The hosts continued to dominate the early exchanges, but Juventus struck back in the 59th minute. A swift counterattack saw Kenan Yıldız exchange passes with Weston McKennie before finishing with a crisp angled strike into the bottom corner.

The decisive moment came in the 78th minute, and McKennie was again involved—this time unintentionally. Attempting to clear a cross aimed at Neres, his weak defensive header dropped perfectly for Højlund, who nodded home from four yards to secure the win and his brace.

Elsewhere, Roma's title ambitions suffered a setback with a 1-0 loss at Cagliari. Reduced to 10 men after Zeki Çelik's red card for denying a clear scoring opportunity, Roma held firm until the 82nd minute when Gianluca Gaetano finished from close range. Roma remain fourth but slipped four points behind leaders Napoli.

Bologna missed an opportunity to close the gap on Roma, drawing 1-1 with Lazio in a match featuring goals from Danes Gustav Isaksen and Jens Odgaard. Lazio finished with 10 men after Mario Gila was sent off for dissent. Earlier, Cremonese secured a 2-0 win over Lecce.

Rooney Slams Salah, Urges Striker to Leave Liverpool

Wayne Rooney Accuses Salah of Damaging Liverpool's Legacy

LONDON

Wayne Rooney, former Manchester United and England legend, has strongly criticised Mohamed Salah for publicly attacking Liverpool, accusing the Egyptian forward of tarnishing his own legacy at the club.

The saga escalated after Salah, frustrated with sitting out three consecutive matches, claimed he had been "thrown under the bus" by Liverpool manager Arne Slot following a 3-3 draw against Leeds United. The comments came amid a difficult 2025-26 campaign for the Premier League defending champions, currently ninth with 23 points from 15 games.

Rooney said, "Why would you come out and say that? Salah has been incredible for Liverpool. But then you can't flip it and say what he said. It was disrespectful to his teammates, to his manager, to the fans." The 33-year-old English star emphasised that while players must earn their place weekly, Salah's remarks were damaging, particularly given Liverpool's current struggles.

Rooney added that Salah should either reconcile with Slot or consider leaving the club. "He's either got to speak to the manager, put something out, and try to put it right. Or leave the football club. It needs to be sorted quickly," Rooney said.

The former striker also urged Liverpool boss Slot to assert his authority by benching Salah for the upcoming Champions League fixture against Inter Milan. Rooney stressed that only Salah's improved performances could repair his reputation, pointing out the striker's current struggles with just four goals in 13 appearances this season.

Salah, a Liverpool icon with 250 goals in 420 appearances since 2017, is set to leave for the Africa Cup of Nations on December 15, potentially missing at least a month of club action. Rooney warned that Salah would likely regret the timing and tone of his public criticism if he does not respond positively on the field.

Rooney concluded, "Only he can help him get out of this situation by playing better! Rather than looking internally, he's looking for anything to put the blame on."

D Gukesh Eyes World No. 1 Spot, Confident Against Magnus Carlsen

CHENNAI

Indian chess prodigy D Gukesh has set his sights on ending Magnus Carlsen's record 14-year reign as the world No. 1. Currently ranked 10th in the FIDE standings, Gukesh is determined to rise to the top, confident that his efforts will eventually pay off.

The 21-year-old experienced a rollercoaster year in 2025. After his stunning victory over Ding Liren at the World Championships, Gukesh climbed to a career-best world No. 3 in February. However, inconsistent performances in subsequent tournaments saw him drop in the rankings, though he still produced memorable wins, including victories against Carlsen himself.

When asked on social media about his goal to become world No. 1, Gukesh replied, "I know I will give my absolute best for it, but whether or not it happens, I would be happy with the effort I put in." His focus remains on consistent growth, aiming for peak form at the 2026 Candidates tournament, a crucial

Indian Grandmaster vows to give his best to dethrone reigning champion

stepping stone toward challenging Carlsen for the world crown.

Gukesh also expressed interest in facing compatriot R Praggnanandhaa at the next World Championships, provided he secures a spot by winning the Candidates 2026. Praggnanandhaa qualified for the event by clinching the FIDE Circuit 2025 title.

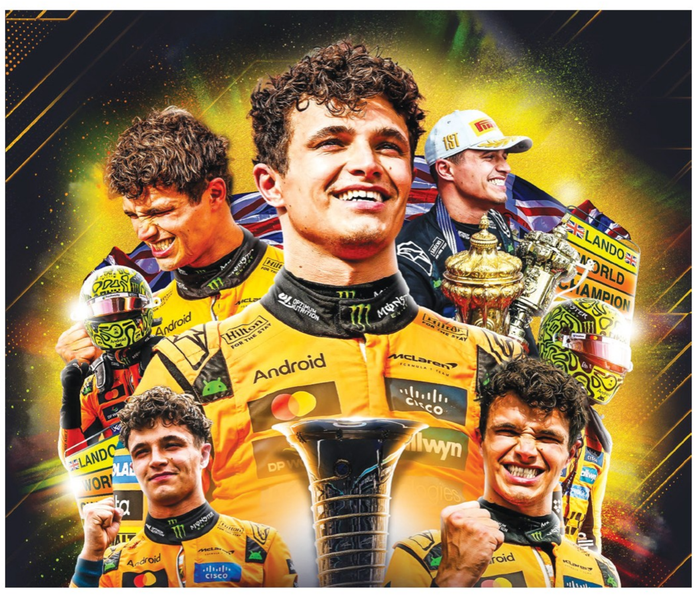
Meanwhile, the Candidates qualification process has sparked debate, particularly regarding Hikaru Nakamura. Despite being the next highest-rated player after Carlsen, Nakamura needed to meet FIDE's 40-game eligibility requirement. Carlsen criticized this rule, calling it unnecessary and restrictive for elite players, arguing that the Candidates should feature the strongest competitors regardless of minor tournament participation.

For Gukesh, these external controversies matter less than his own preparation. With his talent, strategic acumen, and youthful resilience, the Indian GM is positioning himself as a serious contender to rewrite chess history and challenge Carlsen's dominance on the global stage.

Norris overcomes years of criticism and expectation to seize glory

Lando Norris Silences Doubters, Clinches First Formula One World Title

ABU DHABI



Lando Norris completed a remarkable journey to his maiden Formula One world championship, finishing third in Abu Dhabi to clinch the crown and finally silence critics who questioned his mentality, maturity, and mettle. The 26-year-old Briton, world karting champion in 2013, is now the United Kingdom's 11th F1 title winner since the 1950s.

For years, detractors labelled Norris as mentally fragile, overly privileged, or too soft to challenge the sport's fiercest competitors.

He faced boos at rival circuits, endured online jibes—including the notorious "Lando No-wins" tag—and was accused of benefiting from McLaren favouritism over teammate Oscar Piastri. Yet his results spoke louder. After ending his win drought last season, Norris silenced the "pole-but-no-conversion" narrative, taking seven victories this year, five from pole position.

Norris's affluent background drew attention, but in a sport reliant on financial backing, his natural speed and relentless work ethic became undeniable. Early in his McLaren career, he helped mechanics pack down cars post-race, reflecting humility rather than entitlement. His close friendship with Max Verstappen, forged through virtual racing, occasionally sparked controversy, including clashes in Austria last year. Yet Norris's ability to reset and move forward became a hallmark of his rise.

McLaren CEO Zak Brown praised his "resilience, maturity and calmness." Open about mental health and authentic in a sport dominated by stoicism, Norris has emerged as a new-age role model: not a villain, not an enigma — simply a fiercely quick racer with heart on his sleeve and a world title to show for it.

MELBOURNE

Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen captured his maiden major professional title at the Australian Open, producing a nerveless par on the 72nd hole to deny Australian favourite Cameron Smith a long-awaited victory on home soil. Both players were locked at 15-under as they battled through a gripping back-nine duel, but Smith's missed par putt handed the Dane a defining career breakthrough.

Neergaard-Petersen, 26, appeared in trouble on the final hole after shanking his tee shot into thick rough, with a bunker blocking his path to the green. Smith, however, reached the putting surface in two and seemed to hold the advantage, facing a long, downhill putt. Displaying remarkable composure, Neergaard-Petersen executed a flawless up-and-down for par, while Smith missed a birdie and then agonisingly pushed a 1.5-metre putt that would have forced a playoff. The Dane closed with rounds of 67, 66, 66, and 70 to finish at 15-under 269. Smith, who began the day two shots back, surged with birdies on the 10th and 11th but bogeyed the 12th, allowing Neergaard-Petersen to draw level. From there, they matched each stroke until the decisive final green.

Dane holds nerve on final hole to deny hometown hero Smith

"It's hard… I'm really at a loss for words," Neergaard-Petersen said. "Even if you look calm, it was a storm inside all day. To get it up and down on the last… I don't know what to say."

Smith, seeking his first Australian Open title and first win since 2022, described the disappointment as bittersweet. Rory McIlroy, hampered by 11 bogeys over four days and a bizarre slip on a banana peel Saturday, finished tied 10th. Neergaard-Petersen earns a 2026 Masters exemption, while Michael Hollick, Adam Scott, and Si Woo Kim secured berths at the 2026 British Open at Royal Birkdale.

Neergaard-Petersen Clinches First Major Title at Dramatic Australian Open

Neymar Secures Santos' Survival, Confirms Upcoming Knee Surgery

SAO PAULO

Neymar's Santos ensured its survival in Brazil's Serie A with a 3-0 win over Cruzeiro, while the 33-year-old star confirmed he will undergo surgery on his left knee. Playing its final league match of the season, Santos avoided what would have been the club's second relegation in history. The team was first relegated in 2023, nearly a year after the death of legendary Pelé, who made Santos a global football icon.

Neymar, who returned to Santos in January after struggling to recover from a torn ACL sustained in October 2023 during a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay, proved decisive in helping the club stay in the top flight. In the last three rounds, he scored a goal in a 3-0 win against Sport Recife, netted a hat trick in another 3-0 victory over Juventude, and provided key assists in Sunday's win against Cruzeiro.

Thaciano scored in the 26th and 28th minutes, and João Schmidt added a goal in the 60th minute, securing the victory at Vila Belmiro Stadium. Santos finished 12th in the league with 47 points, with Neymar having played 19 of the 38 rounds, scoring eight goals in total.

"I came for this, to try to help the best way I can. These have been tough weeks for me," Neymar said after the match. "I thank those who were with me to lift me up. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have played these matches because of these injuries, this knee problem. I need to rest and then we will have this knee surgery."

Despite the upcoming procedure, Neymar remains hopeful about earning a spot in Brazil's final squad for the 2026 World Cup, although coach Carlo Ancelotti has yet to make selections since taking over in May.

Seattle's WC Pride Match spotlights gay rights despite anti-LGBTQ nations

SEATTLE

Seattle's 2026 World Cup Pride Match will spotlight inclusion in football as Egypt faces Iran, two countries where same-sex relationships are illegal. Scheduled for June 26, 2026—Pride weekend Friday—at Lumen Field, the game has been formally designated the city's "Pride Match" by local organisers.

The pairing, drawn for Group G, is politically charged. In Iran, convictions for same-sex activity can carry the death penalty, while in Egypt, LGBTQ individuals face repeated harassment, arrests, and crackdowns. The match's selection has ignited debate over whether featuring these nations in a Pride celebration sends the right message. Seattle's Pride Match Advisory Committee (PMAC) stressed that the event celebrates local values and inclusion rather than endorsing any government policies. "We want to showcase Seattle and Washington as places where everyone belongs, using football's global reach to unite people across borders, cultures, and beliefs," PMAC stated.

Eric Wahl, brother of late journalist Grant Wahl—detained in Qatar 2022 for wearing a rainbow T-shirt—praised the initiative. Posting on X, he said, "Having Egypt and Iran in the Pride Match is a good thing because there are LGBTQAI+ people everywhere, and all will be welcome to be themselves in Seattle."

The Pride Match forms part of a wider program by SeattleFWC26, including a Juneteenth-themed United States vs Australia fixture on June 19 and a citywide Pride artwork contest. Organisers emphasise the project is locally led and not affiliated with FIFA.

The backdrop remains the ongoing concern for LGBTQ safety at major tournaments, especially after Qatar 2022, where rainbow symbols were restricted and some fans faced detentions. Advocacy groups, including the Sport and Rights Alliance, are urging FIFA to clarify anti-discrimination policies and ensure that queer supporters, particularly those from repressive regimes, are safe and welcome at the 2026 World Cup.

This Pride Match is shaping up as a high-profile statement that football can bridge cultures while advocating equality.

Xabi Alonso's Real Madrid era at crossroads ahead of Manchester City test

MADRID

Real Madrid faces a pivotal Champions League clash against Manchester City after a shocking 2-0 home defeat to Celta Vigo, putting coach Xabi Alonso under intense scrutiny.

The loss to Celta not only ended Madrid's perfect home league run but also left the team four points behind Barcelona in La Liga. The match saw Williot Swedberg score twice, Jude Bellingham leave with a bloody cut above his eye, and Madrid finish with nine men following red cards for Fran Garcia and Alvaro Carreras. It was only their second league defeat in 16 games, capping a run of just seven wins across all competitions.

Alonso admitted the performance was disappointing. "We are all angry, this was not the game we wanted, it was not the result we wanted," he said at the Bernabeu, emphasizing the need to move on quickly.

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